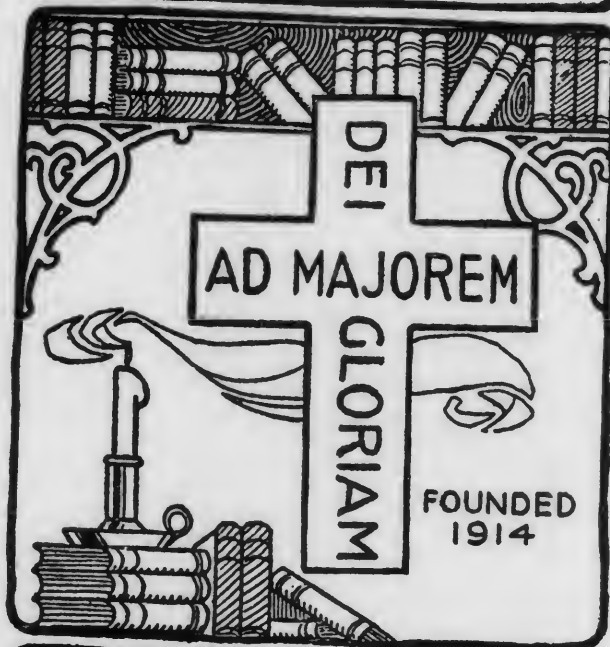


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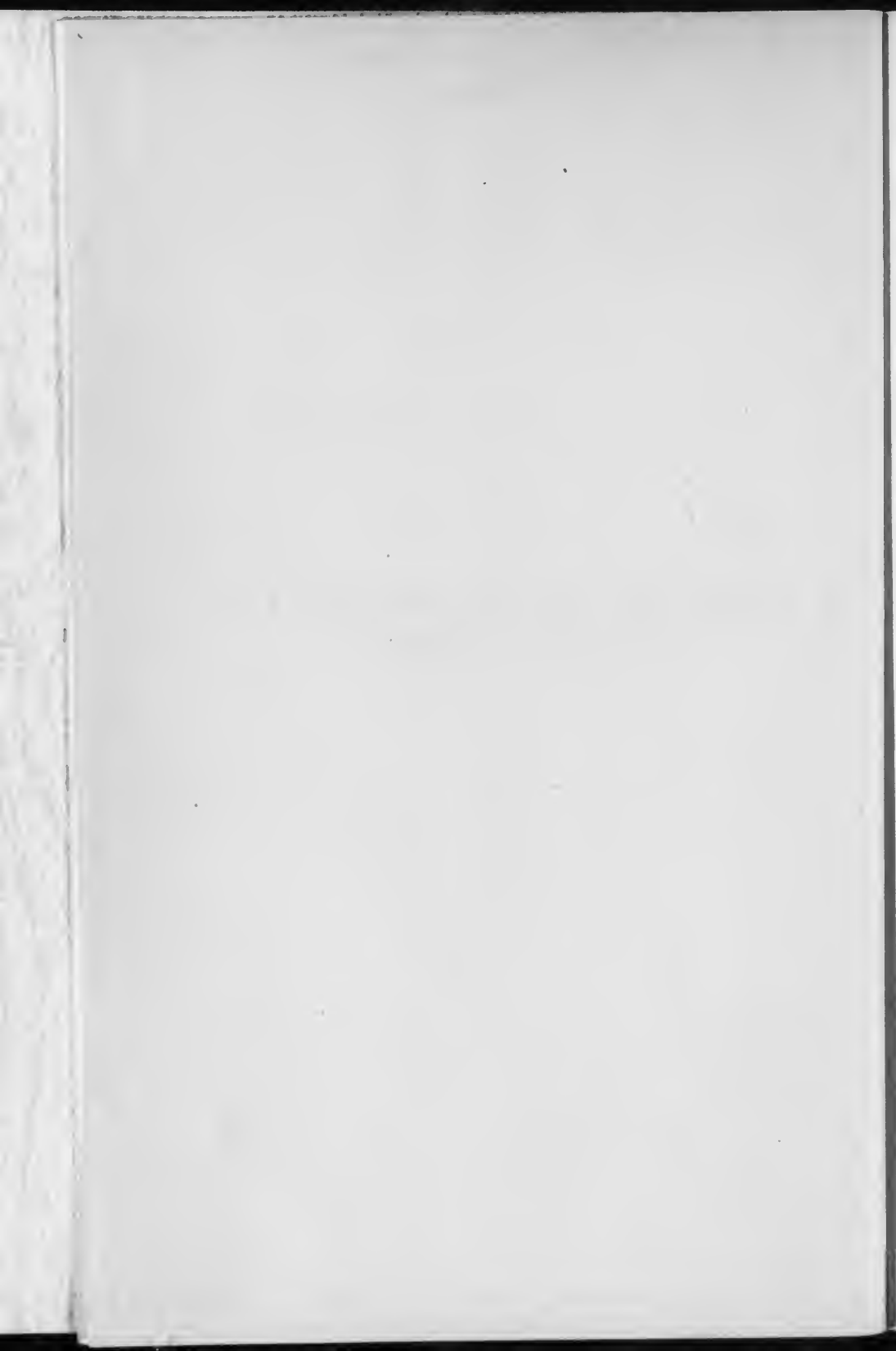
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A SUMMARY OF METHODIST LAW
AND DISCIPLINE



A
SUMMARY OF METHODIST LAW
AND DISCIPLINE

BEING

*A NEW EDITION OF 'THE LARGE
MINUTES'*

BY THE

REV. JOHN S. SIMON, D.D.

*Prepared by order of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference
Revised to the Conference of 1914*

London

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CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. THE SOCIETY	I
II. THE CIRCUIT	129
III. MINISTERS	259
IV. DISTRICT SYNODS	439
V. THE CONFERENCE	531

APPENDIX

I. THE DEED OF DECLARATION	659
II. SCHEME OF LAY REPRESENTATION IN THE CONFERENCE, AND THE ORDER AND FORM OF CONFERENCE BUSINESS	666
III. THE PLAN OF PACIFICATION	680
IV. THE LEEDS REGULATIONS	686
V. RESOLUTIONS ON PASTORAL WORK	694
VI. THE CHAPEL MODEL DEED	710
VII. THE FIRST FOUR VOLUMES OF WESLEY'S SERMONS	736
VIII. THE RULES OF THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITANT SOCIETY	748
INDEX	759

INTRODUCTION

IN the Appendix to the latest edition of the first volume of *The Minutes of the Conference* there is a comparative view of the six editions of the LARGE MINUTES which were published during the life-time of John Wesley. The first edition was published either in 1753 or 1757 ; in 1763, 1770, 1772, 1780, and 1789 subsequent editions were issued. It was Wesley's custom to give a copy of the LARGE MINUTES to a Methodist Preacher when he was taken out on Trial. In the Book the following words were written : ' You think it your duty to call sinners to repentance. Make full proof hereof, and we shall rejoice to receive you as a fellow labourer.' In some copies of the earlier editions an additional sentence appears : ' Observe : you are not to ramble up and down, but to go where the Assistant directs, and there only.' When the Preacher was received into Full Connexion with the Conference, another copy was presented to him containing the inscription, ' As long as you freely

consent to, and earnestly endeavour to walk by, these Rules, we shall rejoice to acknowledge you as a fellow labourer.'

The edition of the *LARGE MINUTES* published in 1789 was continued in use until the Conference of 1834. The 'Plan of Pacification' and the 'Leeds Regulations' were appended to the document, but in several particulars it was dangerously defective. Its principal defect was brought to light in the course of the Chancery suits which were commenced by Dr. Warren to regain possession of the pulpits of certain Chapels in Manchester, from which he had been excluded by the action of a Special District Synod. The disciplinary powers of the District Synods were attacked; and, inasmuch as the *LARGE MINUTES* did not contain the Regulations concerning District Committees, as the Synods were then called, the attack was not without promise of success. The pleas which were based on this omission were skilfully argued by Dr. Warren's counsel, and they revealed an unsuspected danger. The Conference accepted the warning, and laid the book aside.

Lord Lyndhurst characterized the *LARGE MINUTES* as 'a mere guide and assistant to the Preacher,' and declared that the document was 'not intended as a perfect Code of laws.' He

accepted as such a Code a pamphlet which had been prepared and issued by the Conference in 1797. In that year John Pawson compiled and submitted to the Conference an important document. Its character is indicated in two paragraphs which appear in *The Minutes of the Conference* for the year mentioned. The first is signed by the President and Secretary, and, with one exception, by all the other Preachers present at the Conference. It is as follows: 'Whereas we, the undersigned, have on this and the preceding day carefully revised the Rules drawn up and left us by our late venerable Father in the Gospel, the Rev. Mr. Wesley, which were published by him in our LARGE MINUTES, to which we consented when we were admitted, and by which we were regulated during his life; and whereas we have collected together those Rules which we believe to be essential to the existence of Methodism, as well as others, to which we have no objection, we do now voluntarily and in good faith sign our names, as approving of, and engaging to comply with, the aforesaid Collection of Rules, or Code of Laws, God being our Helper.'

The second paragraph occurs in the Address to the Methodist Societies contained in *The Minutes of the Conference* for 1797. The writers say: 'We have selected all our ancient Rules, which were

made before the death of our late venerable Father in the Gospel, the Rev. Mr. Wesley, which are essential Rules, or prudential at this present time ; and have solemnly signed them, declaring our approbation of them, and determination to comply with them ; one single Preacher excepted, who, in consequence, withdrew from us.'

In commenting upon this ' Collection of Rules,' Lord Lyndhurst said, ' In the year 1797 it was considered by the Conference, who are the legislative Body, that it was of importance to the Connexion, both for the purpose of promoting harmony, and for the purpose of pointing out the line of duty which individuals should pursue, that it was of importance to publish the existing Rules of the Society. . . . So they publish what they consider to be the Code of Laws of Methodism, in the year 1797, and they sign that Code with their names. Now that Code has been given in evidence. It is the document, I think, described by the letter " F," the exhibit " F." ' After the decision of the Chancery Judges, the document which was declared by Lord Lyndhurst to be the ' Code of Laws of Methodism,' was substituted for the edition of the LARGE MINUTES then in use. It was reprinted, and issued under the title, *Minutes of Several Conversations, between the Rev. John Wesley, A.M., and the Preachers*

in Connexion with Him. Containing the Form of Discipline established among the Preachers and People in the Methodist Societies.

When the 'Code of Laws' was republished in 1835, very slight alterations were made in it, although it was then nearly forty years old. In a few instances the changes which the Conference had made in its Laws since 1797 were intimated in footnotes. This was adopted as a temporary expedient. It was hoped that the work of revision and enlargement would soon be taken in hand and accomplished; but that hope was not fulfilled. The editor, in order to guard against mistake while revision was in abeyance, introduced the following caution into his 'Advertisement': 'It should be recollected by the reader that this pamphlet professes to contain those Rules and Regulations *only* which were in existence and operation up to the year 1797. Many of these have undergone important modifications, or been wholly superseded since that time; and various others have been adopted by successive Conferences.' For these modified, superseded, and additional Laws the reader was referred to the printed *Minutes of the Conference*.

This confessedly imperfect document has been in use since 1835, being presented to each Wesleyan

Methodist Minister at his Ordination, and inscribed as before mentioned. The 'Liverpool Minutes' of 1820, and the Codified 'Resolutions on Pastoral Work,' prepared by the Rev. Joseph Bush, have been added to it at intervals; but, with these exceptions, this ancient Code has been left in its original condition—the legislative acts of a century being unrecorded in its pages.

At the Conference of 1895, acting upon a suggestion from the Leeds District Synod, a Committee was appointed to prepare a Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline to take the place of the *LARGE MINUTES*. The Committee, when it met in London, passed the following Resolution: 'The Committee, having considered the business put into its charge by the Conference, and having carefully examined the present edition of the *LARGE MINUTES*, is unanimously of opinion that a new document should be prepared, which shall carry out for the present time the purpose which was served by the publication of the *LARGE MINUTES*.' The Convener of the Committee was selected to prepare the new book, and the following Sub-Committee was chosen to assist him: The President and Secretary of the Conference, Revs. Dr. Rigg, Joseph Bush, John Samuel Jones, and Charles E. Wansbrough.

In preparing this edition of the *LARGE MINUTES*,

the special and distinctive character of the 'Code of Laws' has been kept in mind. In addition to the Rules which relate to the personal conduct of the Preacher, which form such a prominent feature of the document of 1789, the Code of 1797 contained the Resolutions of the Conference which guided him in the administration of Discipline in the Society and the Circuit, and information which enabled him to understand the organization which he was expected to work. The Conference of 1797 was aware that the Code, although sufficient for the purpose immediately contemplated, was not complete. In its Address to the Methodist Societies it said, 'We have determined that all the Rules which relate to the Societies, Leaders, Stewards, Local Preachers, Trustees, and Quarterly Meetings, shall be published with the Rules of the Society, for the benefit and convenience of all the Members.' On the appointment of Joseph Benson as Editor, the Conference requested him to prepare the promised Collection of Rules. This he did, and it appeared in 1804. The Collection of Rules, issued in 1804, was the forerunner of the document which, in after years, was submitted to the Circuit Quarterly Meetings for their approval, and which, by the direction of the Conference of 1864, was appended to the Rules of the Society in the Class Books. To

assist in the administration of Society and Circuit Discipline, these Rules have been included in the first and second sections of the *Summary*.

The section of the *Summary* entitled 'Ministers' proceeds upon the lines of the LARGE MINUTES. To 'the ancient Rules,' however, those which are 'essential, or prudential at the present time,' have been added. The Resolutions of the Conference affecting a Minister, from the time he is a Candidate to the close of his career, have been grouped together; and a special attempt has been made to assist Superintendent Ministers in the discharge of the duties of their office.

In dealing with the important subject of District Synods, advantage has been taken of the fact that the Conference has approved an 'Order and Form of Business in District Synods,' which contains the Regulations relating to the annual and the Financial District Synods. A new edition of this document has been prepared, and it must be considered as incorporated, by reference, in this volume.

It is hoped that the section of the *Summary* entitled 'The Conference' will serve as a guide to the legislation which has determined and which governs its proceedings. For the sake of unity the 'Order and Form' of Conference Business has been followed.

In the Appendix documents of permanent value have been included.

The Compiler gratefully acknowledges the invaluable assistance he has received from the members of the Sub-Committee, from Mr. Wansbrough's Index to *The Minutes of the Conference*, and from the books published by his predecessors in the extensive field of Methodist Legislation.

J. S. S.

BRISTOL, 1896.

* * * The First Edition of the *Summary* was published in 1896. This, the Fourth Edition, has been considerably enlarged and carefully revised. The legislation of the Conference has been brought down to the year 1914.

In 1905 the Conference declared that the *Summary* has taken the place of the LARGE MINUTES (1905, p. 367). The declaration is of great importance, as formally recognizing the official character of this book as the standard of Methodist Law and Discipline.

BIRKDALE, 1915.

A SUMMARY OF METHODIST LAW AND DISCIPLINE

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION, 1915

Representation of Members in Leaders' Meeting

The Conference resolves that the recent Regulations for the Enlargement of the Leaders' Meeting do not apply to the Foreign Districts (1915, pp. 368 and 390). See *Summary*, pp. 43, 44, 71.

Commercial Failures of Local Preachers

The Conference added the following N.B. to the present Regulation :

N.B.—This Regulation applies also to a Local Preacher who is a Director of a Company which is in similar financial circumstances (1915, pp. 367 and 440). See *Summary*, p. 96.

Connexional Local Preachers' Organization Committee

(1) *Connexional Organization*.—The Connexional Local Preachers' Committee shall appoint annually an Organization Committee which shall be empowered to make arrangements to enable duly qualified Local Preachers to supply pulpits outside their own Circuits. This Committee shall be known as the Connexional Local Preachers' Organization Committee.

(2) The Organization Committee shall make its own financial arrangements, shall be responsible to the Connexional Committee, and shall consist of ten Ministerial and ten Lay members.

(3) *District Organization.*—In each District where it is necessary for Circuits to secure outside pulpit supplies, the Synod shall instruct the District Local Preachers' Committee to make suitable arrangements for Local Preachers to supply pulpits outside their own Circuits. The District Local Preachers' Committee shall direct those concerned in pulpit supplies for rural districts to take care that Sunday travelling be avoided as far as possible by arranging hospitality from Saturday night to Monday morning.

(4) The District Organization Committee shall appoint a Secretary and a Treasurer.

(5) In order that strong Circuits may render the most effective help to others, and that Local Preachers in such Circuits may be given the widest opportunities of service, it is recommended that District Local Preachers' Committees be directed to co-operate with each other.

(6) The Connexional Local Preachers' Organization Committee shall communicate with the Committee of each District in order to advise those Committees in making adequate arrangements for pulpit supplies throughout their Districts. In any District where the Committee is unable to make all necessary provision, the Connexional Organization Committee may assist any Circuit when desired to do so by the Superintendent Minister of that Circuit.

(7) The Connexional Organization Committee shall from time to time, at its discretion, hold a Conference at

which the general work of the Committee may be discussed. Such Conference shall consist of the members of the Connexional Organization Committee, and one Minister and one Lay Representative from each District Committee (1915, pp. 78-80). See *Summary*, pp. 99-100.

Candidates for the Ministry and Circuit Quarterly Meetings

Where Candidates are in temporary residence in any Circuit for the purpose of special Theological training, they should be recommended as Candidates by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit in which they have resided and worked as Local Preachers, and not by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit in which they are temporarily residing (1915, p. 344). See *Summary*, p. 170.

Returns of Young People's Societies

The Conference directs that in order that the Returns of all Young People's Societies other than Branches of the Wesley Guild may be presented to Conference, the Returns of such Societies as are now given in the President's Circular shall be obtained through all Synod Guild Secretaries, and reported in the Wesley Guild Conference Agenda (*Journal*, 1913, p. 61; *Minutes*, 1914, p. 416). See *Summary*, p. 257.

Prison Chaplains

Superintendent Ministers of Circuits in which County or Borough Prisons are situate are required to furnish each year in September to the Ministerial Secretary of the *Home Missions Prisons Sub-Committee* the name and address of a Minister in the Circuit for recognition by the Governor of such jail as authorized

to visit any Wesleyan prisoners (1903, p. 362; 1915, p. 431). See *Summary*, pp. 340, 370.

County Asylums

The Pastoral oversight of Wesleyans in County Asylums shall be regarded as part of the duty of the Ministers in those Circuits in which County Asylums are situated (1908, p. 356). See *Summary*, p. 370.

Ministers without Pastoral Charge

Paragraph 3, on p. 382 of the *Summary*, to read:

No such Minister shall receive any payment from our Connexional Funds during, or on account of, the years in which he shall occupy the position herein described (1915, p. 388).

Departmental Ministers

At the end of paragraph 6, on p. 394 of the *Summary*, delete the words 'it being necessary that three names should be sent forward to that Session.' In their place insert the following Resolution of the Conference:

When only one name is nominated in the Representative Session, it shall be unnecessary to vote by ballot, but the nomination may by open vote be passed on to the Pastoral Session (*Journal*, 1915; *Minutes*, 1915, p. 403).

The General Committee of the Missionary Society

The Hibernian Auxiliary shall be represented on the Missionary Committee by three Ministers and three Laymen to be nominated by the Irish Conference (*Journal*, 1915; *Minutes*, 1915, p. 10). See *Summary*, p. 403.

Ministers accepted for Service in Specified Countries only.

N.B.—The Conference in 1914 appointed a Special Committee to consider the position of Ministers who have been accepted for service in specified countries only, and to advise the Conference whether, and if so on what terms and conditions, such Ministers may be admitted to the ranks of those on whose area of service no limit rests (*Minutes*, 1914, pp. 102, 103). The Special Committee reported to the Conference in 1915, and its report was adopted (1915, pp. 114, 115).

1. Ministers received for Work in India.

The Secretary reported that all the Ministers who had been received for Work in India and who had made application for Full Status had made their payments in accordance with the financial arrangements made by Conference, and Full Status had been granted to them on those terms.

Inasmuch as each of these Brethren has paid the £160 for the privilege of entering upon a House on returning to this Country, it was resolved—

That in the event of such Minister not claiming a House in the Home Work (through death, not returning to this Country, or from any other cause), the £160 be returned to him, or to his heirs and administrators; and that meanwhile interest at the rate of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. be paid to him annually so long as the £160 is in the hands of the Missionary Society; less any amount which the Society will be charged by any of the Home Funds in excess of what has been received from the Minister in question for that Fund.

2. *Ministers received for Work in the West Indies.*

The following payments shall be made by Ministers who have been received for Work in the West Indies, and who desire to have the restriction which limits their area of service removed :

(i.) To the Home Mission Fund . . . £160.

(ii.) To the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children, for each child under 19 years of age . . . £40.

(The above payments shall be made when the Minister actually returns to a Home Circuit. Whenever his return has been approved by the Committee appointed for this purpose the money shall be placed in the hands of the Foreign Missionary Society before the case is dealt with by the Pastoral Session of the Conference.)

(iii.) To the Worn-Out Ministers and Ministers' Widows' Fund . . . £7 for each year counted upon admission by the Conference.

(This payment to be made by the Foreign Missionary Committee on behalf of the Minister concerned.)

The Conference farther resolves that so far as the payments to the Children's Fund are concerned, the Ministers in India and the West Indies shall be placed, if possible, on an equal footing, and that this question shall be referred to the Pastoral Committee already in existence (1915, pp. 114, 115). See *Summary*, pp. 413-15.

New Legislation and Foreign Districts

The Conference resolves that New Legislation adopted by the Conference shall not in future be held to apply to our Foreign Districts unless and until the Conference shall so determine (1915, p. 368). See *Summary*,

pp. 432, 521. For *Representation of Members in Leaders' Meeting*, see ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION, 1915, p.1.

Constitution of the Pastoral Session of the Annual District Synod

In paragraph 1, on pp. 449, 450, of the *Summary*, delete the words from 'In consequence' to 'a brief period of time.' See *Minutes*, 1915, p. 407.

Constitution of the Representative Session of the Annual District Synod

At the top of p. 452 of the *Summary*, line 7, substitute 'two-thirds' for 'four-fifths.' See *Minutes*, 1908, p. 112.

Ministers and Probationers on Missionary Stations where there is no Annual Synod

The Conference resolves that Ministers or Probationers appointed to any Missionary Station where there is no Annual Synod shall be answerable as to Doctrine and Discipline to the Synod of the First London District (1915, pp. 368 and 390). See *Summary*, p. 519.

Preparations for the Stationing Committee

Paragraph 1, on p. 543 of the *Summary*, to read as follows:

1. The Secretary of the Conference shall, early in October of each year, supply every Representative of a District with a Schedule on which he shall be required to enter the names of all Ministers in the District removing at the ensuing Conference, and for whom no provisional arrangement has been made; also the Circuits in which there is any vacancy not provisionally supplied. Early in November the Secretary of the Conference shall forward to every Representative a

complete list compiled from the information received (*Journal*, 1912; *Minutes*, 1915, p. 397, 398).

Such complete List shall be supplied also to any Minister or Circuit Steward concerned, who may apply for the same.

Lay Representatives elected by Conference

The Conference resolves that prior to the annual nomination in the Conference of persons for the sixteen vacancies, it shall be definitely told, either verbally by the Secretary of the Conference or by notice printed on the Nomination Papers, which of the thirty-five Districts of Methodism in Great Britain have been unrepresented in the forty-eight Laymen elected by the Conference itself during the previous three years (1915, p. 117). See *Summary*, pp. 554, 555, 595.

Nomination Committee

In the list of Committees within the scope of the Nomination Committee, on p. 569 of the *Summary*, delete 'London Mission and Extension Fund,' and 'Methodist Settlement in London.' See *Daily Record*, 1915, pp. 47, 48; *Minutes*, 1915, p. 39.

Custody of Connexional Documents

The Conference directs that Memorials and suggestions to the Conference be kept in the safe for two years only (1912, p. 112). See *Summary* p. 583.

Common Cash

The Conference agrees to the request of the Trustees of the Central Buildings, Westminster, for the inclusion of their accounts in the Common Cash system (1915, p. 95). See *Summary*, p. 621.

A SUMMARY OF METHODIST LAW AND DISCIPLINE

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION, 1916

New Legislation in reference to the Foreign Stations

The Resolutions 1 and 2 (*Minutes*, 1915, p. 368) are amended so as to read: That Foreign Districts shall be informed of all new legislation adopted by Conference, but such legislation shall only become operative in those Districts where the Synods themselves desire, unless in any instance Conference shall itself otherwise determine (1916, p. 396).

N.B.—The Resolutions appeared in the Supplement to the *Summary* containing the *Additional Legislation of the Conference*, 1915. See pp. 1 and 6. Those Resolutions must now be amended in accordance with the direction of the Conference.

Inquiries at Trustees' Meetings

1. The Conference directs that the inquiries printed in Appendix VIII. shall be made in relation to every Trust at a Special Meeting following the Annual Meeting for audit, and also at the Annual United Trustees' Meeting.

2. The Conference also directs that the Secretary of the Trust shall forward the replies on a schedule, provided by the Chapel Committee, to the Circuit Chapel Secretary for presentation at the United Trustees' Meeting.

3. The Conference further directs that the following question be inserted in the *Order and Form of Business in the District Synods*, under the head of Chapel Affairs: 'Have the directions of the Conference with regard to the inquiries to be made annually in the Trustees' Meeting and the United Trustees' Meeting been carried out? Is the Synod asked to advise in any case?' (1916, p. 25. For Appendix VIII. see pp. 604-607). See *Summary*, pp. 119, 187, 719-21.

Temperance Teaching in Sunday Schools

The Conference directs that Temperance teaching shall be given systematically in our Sunday Schools, and that the page in the Sunday School Register set apart for the signing of the Total Abstinence Pledge by Sunday School scholars shall be used for that purpose (1916, p. 79).

The Circuit Sunday School Council

1. The Conference directs that Circuit Ministers shall explain to the various Local Councils in their Circuits, or, in cases in which the small number of workers in any given School renders a Council impossible, to the individual workers, the benefits to be derived from close

co-operation with the Department, and the wisdom of contributing to the funds of the Circuit Council.

2. The Conference directs that for the future Circuit Treasurers, after retaining one-half of the total contributions from the Schools in the Circuit, shall forward the other half to the District Treasurer, who shall remit two-thirds of the amount thus received to Headquarters.

3. The Conference directs that a Circuit Council be formed without delay in every Circuit, and that some such scheme of systematic visitation as has been outlined in the Programme of Advance sanctioned by the Conference of 1914 and 1915 be organized forthwith (1916, p. 70. For Programme of Advance see 1914, pp. 536-38). See *Summary*, pp. 224-26.

Probationers' Book Lists

To Standing Order 105 add:

N.B.—The Synod may appoint a Committee to examine the Book Lists in detail and to report to the Synod (1916, p. 451). See *Summary*, p. 310.

Membership Bureau

The Conference directs that in the *Order and Form of Business* for the May Synods a question be inserted dealing with the removal of Members through the Bureau:

'Has the direction of the Conference requiring all Ministers on the removal of any Member to send to the Bureau Committee full details of the name of the Member, the Circuit, and the place to which he is remov-

ing, been duly observed?' (1916, p. 96). See *Summary*, p. 29.

Re-election of Synod Committees

In harmony with the legislation with reference to re-election on Connexional Committees, S.O. 6 (3), the regulations in regard to the election of members of Synod Committees shall read: One Lay member shall retire annually, but shall be eligible for re-election on the vote of *two-thirds* of the Synod (1902, p. 114; 1908, p. 112; 1916, p. 444). See *Summary*, p. 452, and *Additional Legislation*, 1915, p. 7.

Nomination of Chairmen of Welsh Synods

In the case of the Welsh-speaking Districts the Pastoral Session of the Welsh Assembly is authorized to nominate to the Conference such Brethren as it considers should be appointed to the Chair of those Districts (1915, p. 363; 1916, p. 383). See *Summary*, p. 529.

Preparations for the Stationing Committee

To the first paragraph (*Summary*, p. 543) add:

N.B.—This List shall be supplied also to any Minister or Circuit Steward concerned who may apply for the same, and, if necessary, an additional List shall be supplied in February (1916, p. 431).

Women's Auxiliary

The Women's Auxiliary shall be represented on the

Missionary Committee by ten women nominated by the Woman's Auxiliary Committee (*Daily Record*, 1916, p. 94). See *Summary*, p. 403.

N.B.—A plan for bringing the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society and the Women's Auxiliary into closer relationship was adopted by the Conference in 1916. The plan is contained in the Agenda for the Representative Session, 1916, pp. 90-91.

Inasmuch as the Committee of the Women's Auxiliary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society is hereafter to be appointed by the Conference, provision shall be made for the presentation of their Annual Report to the Conference by a member of the Auxiliary elected for this purpose by the Committee of the Auxiliary, who shall be included in the number of those allocated to the Representative Session. It was agreed that in the District allocation for the Conference of 1917, the number of Representatives allotted to the First London District should be reduced by one in order to make this provision for a member of the Women's Auxiliary to attend Conference (1916, p. 117). See *Summary*, p. 555.

The Conference resolved that it be an instruction to the Allocation Committee that the reduction of one in the number of Representatives, as arranged for in the above Resolution, should be made *in turn* from the larger Districts only (*Daily Record*, 1916, p. 50).

**Central Mission Committees and Quarterly and Trustees'
Meetings**

To the second line on p. 588 of the *Summary* add—
See also 1916, pp. 31-36.

Chapel Committee

The Committee is empowered to create a Reserve Fund out of any surplus arising from the working of the Fund for any given year, without restricting the Ordinary Grants. Such Reserve Fund shall be at the disposal of the Committee for Special Grants towards cases which, in the judgement of the Committee, cannot be adequately met by the Ordinary Grants. This regulation shall apply to villages as well as populous centres when the need is urgent (1916, p. 25). See *Summary*, p. 476.

Auxiliary Fund

1. When any Minister who has not rendered forty years' service applies to become a Supernumerary, he shall present a medical certificate of unfitness for the full work of the Ministry (1916, p. 53). See *Summary*, pp. 371-72.

2. The Conference directs that, in future, each Minister and Probationer shall be required to become a member of the Annuitant Society, or to satisfy a Committee, to be appointed for the purpose, that he is in some other way making equal provision for supernumeraryship (1916, p. 54). See *Summary*, pp. 371-72.

The Lord's Day

The Conference directs that reference be made to the Divine authority and obligation of the Lord's Day in all our Places of Worship more frequently, and especially on the Sunday after Easter (1916, p. 76). See *Summary*, p. 621.

Secretaries of District Synods

The title 'Financial Secretary' shall be discontinued, and the 'Secretary of the District Synod' shall be elected year by year by the Conference on the nomination of the Chairman of the District, and he shall be *ex-officio* the Secretary of both the September and the May Synods (1915, p. 363; 1916, p. 383). See *Summary*, pp. 448, 649.

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THE SOCIETY

TITLE OF THE CONNEXION

HAVING regard to the terms used in our Trust Deeds and other Legal Documents, it is not possible for the Conference to alter the title of the Connexion as it appears on the front page of the *Minutes of Conference*. The Conference declares, however, that the title hitherto used is not, and never has been, inconsistent with the assertion for 'the people called Methodists' of a true and proper position as a Church, with all the authorities, privileges, and responsibilities belonging to the New Testament Church; and in this view of our principles and of the facts of the case, the Conference, so far from discouraging, distinctly approves of the general and popular use of the term, 'The Wesleyan Methodist Church' (*Minutes*, 1891, p. 321).

The Conference directs, particularly in all official documents, that our full and correct title of Wesleyan Methodist shall be used (*Minutes*, 1905, p. 118).

A SUMMARY OF METHODIST LAW AND DISCIPLINE

ORIGIN OF THE METHODIST SOCIETY

IN *A Plain Account of the People called Methodists*, written in the year 1748, John Wesley says :

About ten years ago, my brother and I were desired to preach in many parts of London. We had no view therein, but, so far as we were able (and we knew God could work by whomsoever it pleased Him), to convince those who would hear what true Christianity was, and to persuade them to embrace it.

The points we chiefly insisted upon were four : First, that orthodoxy, or right opinions, is, at best, but a very slender part of religion, if it can be allowed to be any part of it at all ; that neither does religion consist in negatives, in bare harmlessness of any kind, nor merely in externals, in doing good, or using the means of grace, in works of piety (so called) or of charity ; that it is nothing short of, or different from, ' the mind that was in Christ ' ; the image of God stamped upon the heart ; inward righteousness, attended with the peace of God, and ' joy in the Holy Ghost.' Secondly, that the only way under heaven

to this religion is, to 'repent and believe the Gospel'; or (as the Apostle words it), 'repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.' Thirdly, that by this faith, 'he that worketh not, but believeth on Him that justifieth the ungodly, is justified freely by His grace, through the redemption which is in Jesus Christ.' And, lastly, that 'being justified by faith,' we taste of the heaven to which we are going; we are holy and happy; we tread down sin and fear, and 'sit in heavenly places with Christ Jesus.'

Many of those who heard this began to cry out that we brought 'strange things to their ears'; that this was doctrine which they never heard before, or at least never regarded. They 'searched the Scriptures, whether these things were so,' and acknowledged 'the truth as it is in Jesus.' Their hearts also were influenced, as well as their understandings, and they determined to follow 'Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.'

Immediately they were surrounded with difficulties; all the world rose up against them.

One and another and another came to us, asking what they should do, being distressed on every side, as every one strove to weaken, and none to strengthen their hands in God. We advised them: 'Strengthen you one another; talk together as often as you can; and pray earnestly with and for one another, that you may "endure to the end and be saved."' Against this advice we presumed there could be no objection, as being grounded on the plainest reason and on so many scriptures, both of the Old Testament and New, that it would be tedious to recite them.

They said: 'But we want you likewise to talk with us often; to direct and quicken us in our way, to give us the advices which you well know we need; and to pray with

us as well as for us.' I asked: 'Which of you desire this? Let me know your names and places of abode.' They did so; but I soon found that they were too many for me to talk with severally so often as they wanted it. So I told them: 'If you will all of you come together every Thursday, in the evening, I will gladly spend some time with you in prayer, and give you the best advice I can.'

Thus arose, without any previous design on either side, what was afterwards called a Society. . . . The thing proposed in their associating themselves together was obvious to every one. They wanted to 'flee from the wrath to come,' and to assist each other in so doing. They, therefore, united themselves 'in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation and to watch over one another in love; that they might help each other to work out their salvation.'

There is one only condition previously required in those who desire admission into this Society—'a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins.'

It quickly appeared that their thus uniting together answered the end proposed therein. . . . The far greater part of those who were thus united together continued 'striving to enter in at the strait gate,' and to 'lay hold on eternal life.'

Upon reflection, I could not but observe, This is the very thing which was from the beginning of Christianity (*Works*, vol. viii., pp. 248-250, Third Edition).

ORIGIN OF THE CLASSES

But, as much as we endeavoured to watch over each other, we soon found some who did not live the Gospel. . . . We quickly perceived there were many ill consequences

of suffering these to remain among us. It was dangerous to others ; inasmuch as all sin is of an infectious nature. It brought such a scandal on their brethren as exposed them to what was not properly the reproach of Christ. It laid a stumbling-block in the way of others, and caused the truth to be evil spoken of.

We groaned under these inconveniences long before a remedy could be found. . . .

At length, while we were thinking of quite another thing, we struck upon a method for which we have cause to bless God ever since. I was talking with several of the Society in Bristol, concerning the means of paying the debts there, when one stood up and said, ' Let every member of the Society give a penny a week till all are paid.' Another answered, ' But many of them are poor, and cannot afford to do it.' ' Then,' said he, ' put eleven of the poorest with me, and if they can give anything, well. I will call on them weekly, and, if they can give nothing, I will give for them as well as for myself. And each of you call on eleven of your neighbours weekly, receive what they give, and make up what is wanting.' It was done. In a while some of these informed me they found such and such an one did not live as he ought. It struck me immediately, ' This is the thing ; the very thing we have wanted so long.' I called together all the Leaders of the Classes (so we used to term them and their companies), and desired that each would make a particular inquiry into the behaviour of those whom he saw weekly. They did so. Many disorderly walkers were detected. Some turned from the evil of their ways. Some were put away from us. Many saw it with fear, and rejoiced unto God with reverence.

As soon as possible, the same method was used in

London and all other places. Evil men were detected and reprov'd. They were borne with for a season. If they forsook their sins we received them gladly ; if they obstinately persisted therein it was openly declared that they were not of us. The rest mourned and prayed for them, and yet rejoiced that, as far as in us lay, the scandal was rolled away from the Society (*Works*, vol. viii., pp. 252, 253, Third Edition).

**THE RULES OF THE SOCIETY OF THE PEOPLE
CALLED METHODISTS**

(See Wesley's *Works*, vol. viii., pp. 269-71, Third Edition.)

1. In the latter end of the year 1739, eight or ten persons came to me in London, who appeared to be deeply convinced of sin, and earnestly groaning for redemption. They desired (as did two or three more the next day) that I would spend some time with them in prayer, and advise them how to flee from the wrath to come, which they saw continually hanging over their heads. That we might have more time for this great work, I appointed a day when they might all come together ; which, from thenceforward, they did every week, viz. on Thursday, in the evening. To these, and as many more as desired to join with them (for their number increased daily), I gave those advices from time to time which I judg'd most needful for them ; and we always concluded our meeting with prayer suited to their several necessities.

2. This was the rise of the UNITED SOCIETY, first in London, and then in other places. Such a Society is no other than ' *a company of men, having the form, and seek-*

ing the power, of godliness ; united, in order to pray together, to receive the word of exhortation, and to watch over one another in love, that they may help each other to work out their salvation.'

3. That it may the more easily be discerned whether they are indeed working out their own salvation, each Society is divided into smaller companies, called Classes, according to their respective places of abode. There are about twelve persons in every Class, one of whom is styled *the Leader*. It is his business—

(1.) To see each person in his Class once a week at least, in order

To inquire how their souls prosper ;

To advise, reprove, comfort, or exhort, as occasion may require ;

To receive what they are willing to give towards the support of the Gospel.

(2.) To meet the Ministers and the Stewards of the Society once a week, in order

To inform the Minister of any that are sick, or of any that walk disorderly, and will not be reproved ;

To pay the Stewards what they have received of their several Classes in the week preceding ; and

To show their account of what each person has contributed.

4. There is only one condition previously required in those who desire admission into these Societies : viz. '*a desire to flee from the wrath to come, to be saved from their sins.*' But wherever this is really fixed in the soul it will be shown by its fruits. It is therefore expected of

all who continue therein that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

FIRST, By doing no harm, by avoiding evil in every kind ; especially that which is most generally practised. Such is

The taking the name of God in vain :

The profaning the day of the Lord, either by doing ordinary work thereon, or by buying or selling :

Drunkenness ; *buying or selling spirituous liquors, or drinking them*, unless in cases of extreme necessity :

Fighting, quarrelling, brawling ; brother going to law with brother ; returning evil for evil, or railing for railing ; the using many words in buying or selling :

The *buying or selling uncustomed goods :*

The *giving or taking things on usury ; i.e. unlawful interest :*

Uncharitable or unprofitable conversation ; particularly speaking evil of Magistrates or of Ministers :

Doing to others as we would not they should do unto us :

Doing what we know is not for the glory of God ; as—

The *putting on of gold or costly apparel ;*

The *taking such diversions* as cannot be used in the name of the LORD JESUS ;

The *singing those songs, or reading those books, which do not tend to the knowledge or love of God :*

Softness, and needless self-indulgence :

Laying up treasures upon earth :

Borrowing without a probability of paying ; or
taking up goods without a probability of paying
for them.

5. It is expected of all who continue in these Societies that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

SECONDLY, By doing good, by being in every kind merciful after their power ; as they have opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as is possible, to all men :

To their bodies, of the ability that God giveth, by giving food to the hungry, by clothing the naked, by visiting or helping them that are sick or in prison :

To their souls, by instructing, *reproving*, or exhorting all they have any intercourse with ; trampling under foot that enthusiastic doctrine of devils, that ' we are not to do good, unless *our heart be free to it.*'

By doing good, especially to them that are of the household of faith, or groaning so to be ; employing them preferably to others, buying one of another, helping each other in business ; and so much the more, because the world will love its own, and them *only*.

By all possible *diligence* and *frugality*, that the Gospel be not blamed.

By running with patience the race that is set before them, *denying themselves, and taking up their cross daily* ; submitting to bear the reproach of Christ ;

to be as the filth and offscouring of the world ;
and looking that men should say *all manner of*
evil of them falsely, for the Lord's sake.

6. It is expected of all who desire to continue in these Societies, that they should continue to evidence their desire of salvation,

THIRDLY, By attending upon all the ordinances of God ; such are :

The public worship of God ;
The ministry of the word, either read or expounded ;
The Supper of the Lord ;
Family and private prayer ;
Searching the Scriptures ; and
Fasting or abstinence.

7. These are the General Rules of our Societies ; all which we are taught of God to observe, even in His written word, the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice. And all these we know His Spirit writes on every truly awakened heart. If there be any among us who observe them not, who habitually break any of them, let it be made known unto them who watch over that soul, as they that must give an account. We will admonish him of the error of his ways : we will bear with him for a season. But then if he repent not, he hath no more place among us. We have delivered our own souls.

JOHN WESLEY.

CHARLES WESLEY.

May 1, 1743.

STATEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE CONCERNING CHURCH MEMBERSHIP**Nature of the Church**

The Church of Christ is the company of His disciples, consisting of all those who accept Him as the Son of God and their Saviour from sin, and who love one another for His sake and join hands to work out the common salvation. The Church is the family of the redeemed children of God ; it is the commonwealth of souls in Jesus Christ. The Members of this Society are, in the New Testament, variously called Believers, Saints, Brethren, Christians. They form collectively 'the body' of which Christ is the Head, 'the branches' of which He is the Vine, 'the household of faith' of which He is the Firstborn, the 'holy temple' in which the Spirit of God dwelleth.

The Church Universal and Particular

The Church of Christ, in the largest view thereof, includes 'the blessed company of all faithful people'—the saints departed, who live unto God, together with those sojourning on earth 'that call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ in every place, both their Lord and ours.' The latter constitute the visible Church, the flock of Christ, which is at present gathered in many folds, distinguished by differences partly of race and language, and partly of doctrine and usage. Under these distinctions there subsists, notwithstanding, 'one Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church,' united 'in the faith and knowledge of the Son of God.' The several Churches—many, and yet one in Christ—exist in local communities, whose Members are bound together in common worship and work for God. Such a community is, in the more immediate sense, the Church of God for

the individual believer, and claims accordingly his loyal affection and personal service. Through this circle of brethren and companions he attaches himself to the Church Universal, and takes his allotted part in the life of the whole body of Christ. Among the living branches of Christendom the Wesleyan Methodist Church, with its missionary and daughter churches in many lands, occupies a responsible and important place.

The Ministry and the Sacraments

For the leadership and oversight of His people in the work of God's kingdom, our Lord appointed the Apostles; and after these, as need arose, others were chosen for various offices in the Church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and with the concurrence of the local communities. The Christian Ministry which thus originated has been continued with many adaptations of name and function unto this day. Christ's Ministers in the Church are stewards in the household of God, and shepherds of His flock. Some are called and ordained to this sole occupation, and have a principal and directing part in these great duties; but they hold no priesthood differing in kind from that which is common to the Lord's people, and they have no exclusive title to the preaching of the Gospel or the care of souls. These ministries are shared with them by others, to whom also the Spirit divides His gifts severally as He wills.

The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are of divine institution. They are signs and visible seals of the covenant between Christ and His bride the Church, the observance of which the Lord has enjoined upon His servants 'until He come.' Christian Baptism is the sacrament of entrance into the household of faith,

and from the earliest times has been administered not only to adult believers, but also to little children, 'for of such is the kingdom of heaven'; and the Church claims from their tenderest years those whom God puts within her reach, that she may train them for faith and service. The Bread and Cup of the Lord's Table are perpetual reminders of His atoning death, and emblems of the life that He imparts; under these tokens the Lord and His people evermore renew their pledges each to the other. The presence of Christ through His Spirit in the Sacraments is realized by the faith of His people.

The Methodist Fellowship

Methodism had its birth in the great work which God wrought in our land through the Revival of Religion in the eighteenth century. It was not the offspring of schism, nor the product of any new doctrine or of any theory of Church government. Its founders provided step by step, in the wisdom which God gave them, for the needs of the multitude of Christ's sheep which they were gathering from the wilderness—needs unsupplied by the Churches then existing. In making this provision, our fathers reproduced in a simple and unstudied way the modes of Church life indicated in the New Testament. Through the spirit of Christ's love and power working in them, the Methodist Societies shaped themselves into a distinct and strongly featured Church. Methodism imposed no new terms or narrow tests upon the people of God, but recalled them to much-forgotten principles, when it asserted that the desire for salvation is the condition of entrance into the Christian fold, and that the practice of brotherly love is an indispensable condition of abiding therein. In pro-

claiming the doctrine of Entire Sanctification it set up again the Apostolic standard of the believer's calling of God in Christ Jesus.

By their origin and experience the Methodist Churches have been taught the value of a pervasive social fellowship, and its necessity for the well-being of the Christian Society. Hence our distinctive institutions of the Class Meeting, the Society Meeting, and the Lovefeast. Wherever men were brought to God under Methodist preaching, they were gathered into a Society for mutual help and edification; and the Societies thus formed were linked by manifold ties into a Connexion. Our Church life is built up on this basis; it rests upon the assumption that those who love Christ and seek to follow Him will be helpers of one another's faith and joy. Union in brotherly converse is the natural expression of brotherly love. Such intercourse nourishes the life of God in the soul, and quickens the springs of Christian zeal, as the grace bestowed on each believer is shared with his fellows; thus the body of Christ 'grows by that which every joint supplieth, unto the building up of itself in love.' Personal fellowship is therefore incumbent upon all Members of our Church. None may be counted as discharged from this debt of love, save those who are debarred or disabled from attendance at the social means of grace, and to these the Church owes special and tender care.

Only by the good-will and earnest co-operation of all our people can the meetings of the Church be made in blessing and in power all that they should be. Amid this present evil world, 'it must needs be that offences come'; but no offence absolves the servant of Christ from love to his brother. Those who forsake the as-

sembling of the Church because of the faults of some of its Members are allowing themselves to be overcome of evil; by their withdrawal they weaken the Christian brotherhood, and frustrate the prayer of our Lord that His disciples 'may be perfected into one,' so 'that the world may believe that God hath sent Him.'

The Rules of Society

The duty of fellowship has been dwelt upon because this is by many too lightly regarded. Other conditions of Church Membership are more readily acknowledged. They are virtually implied in what has been said respecting the nature of the Church. 'Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ' form the gateway to the Christian life; an earnest desire to 'flee from the wrath to come' and to be saved from sin is the one qualification for admission into the Methodist Society. The 'Rules of Society,' laid down by John and Charles Wesley and accepted by the first Methodists, set forth the obedience of faith in many particulars, such as 'God's Spirit writes upon every truly awakened heart.' These directions fall under three principal heads: (1) That of 'doing no harm' and 'avoiding evil in every kind, especially that which is most generally practised.' Beside the open and acknowledged forms of sin, all dissipating pleasures and selfish indulgences and personal ostentation, all gains made to the injury of others by trading on their ignorance or weakness and necessity, all dishonest evasion of lawful dues, all abuse of public office and influence for private ends, all foolish or malicious talk, come under this condemnation. (2) That of 'doing good by being merciful after one's power, doing good of every possible sort'

to 'the bodies' of men as well as to 'their souls,' 'and as far as possible to all men.' In this instruction are embraced the various forms of social, philanthropic, and missionary service, for which the opportunities are so numerous and the demand so manifest. (3) That of 'attending upon all the ordinances of God.' Not only does this Rule direct us to attend public worship and maintain Christian fellowship, but it also lays upon us other and more private duties,—such as those of private prayer, of the reading of Scripture, and of self-discipline. The practice of family worship is urged as binding upon all Methodists; for the household altar and the household faith are vitally connected, and in family religion the light of the Christian life shines most brightly before men to the glory of our Father who is in heaven. The closing paragraph of the Rules expresses the spirit of the Methodist discipline—the tenderness, patience, and fidelity with which it must be exercised, as by brethren dealing with brethren; but it declares that the wanton law-breaker and disregarder of his brethren 'hath no more place among us.'

While no rules can comprehend the believer's obligations to Christ, yet, to use Wesley's own words, 'these are the General Rules of our Societies, all which we are taught of God to observe, even in His written word, the only rule, and the sufficient rule, both of our faith and practice' (*Minutes*, 1908, pp. 349, 582-6).

STATEMENT OF THE CONFERENCE CONCERNING CLASS AND SOCIETY MEETINGS

The Class Meeting

In the Class Meeting the fellowship of the Methodist people has found its most adequate expression. This

institution has proved to be of the utmost value for brotherly intercourse concerning the difficulties, temptations, and joys of the Christian life ; for mutual counsel concerning the way of holiness ; for the training and development of Christian character ; and for fitly framing and knitting together the several parts of the body of Christ 'unto the building up of itself in love.' The Class Meeting has thus become a cherished possession of our Church, and is an institution of permanent and inestimable worth. The benefit received from it is greatly impaired by irregular attendance, and our people are earnestly enjoined to make constant use of this treasured means of grace.

Adaptations of the Class Meeting

The Class Meeting may be widely varied and developed according to the needs, opportunities, and character of our people, so long as such meetings foster a holy Christian fellowship and are under the guidance of a Leader duly appointed and acting under the supervision of a Leaders' Meeting. Therefore as to the time and place of meeting, and as to the form in which the meetings shall be conducted, much liberty is allowed. Regular Class Meetings may be held, under the authorized Leader, at any stated hour of the week, wherever any particular group of Members of the Church, forming a family circle or a set of fellow-workers and companions, may find it most convenient and helpful to gather for prayer and counsel,—not only on Church premises, but in private houses, in schools and colleges, in workshops and houses of business, on ship-board or in barrack-rooms. The diverse conditions under which our people live make variety of this kind desirable. Everything

possible should be done to preserve the homely and informal nature of the Class Meeting.

The Society Meeting

In addition to the Class Meeting, which provides for more intimate fellowship and oversight, the Society Meeting has from the beginning been an integral part of the organization of Methodism. The Society consists of all the Members at each local centre, and constitutes the Church in that place. Its affairs are under the direction of the Leaders' Meeting. Regular meetings of the Society are needful for the realization of a common Church life. They are not intended to be a substitute for the Class Meeting, but to foster a larger Christian fellowship. Our Lovefeasts have partly answered this purpose in the past, and will continue to do so.

The whole Society in each place shall, wherever possible, be called together; by appointment on the Circuit Plan, at least once a quarter,—for purposes of general fellowship amongst its Members, for testimony concerning Christian experience, and for pastoral guidance and common counsel in the things of the kingdom of God, both as touching personal religion and the work of God in the congregation and neighbourhood.

At the Society Meeting new Members, after being reported to the Leaders' Meeting, shall be introduced by their Leaders to receive the right hand of fellowship. Members transferred from other Societies, or other Churches, shall be introduced. Baptisms that have taken place since the preceding meeting, and losses suffered through death or through the removal of any Members of the Church, shall be reported. New

appointments and retirements of Class Leaders and Stewards shall be announced. At the first meeting in the New Year the Roll of Membership, containing the names of all fully accredited members on the Class Books, as reported to the Leaders' Meeting, may be read in the Society, and each Member shall be expected to answer to his name. It is recommended that once in the year, if not more frequently, the Society Meeting shall conclude with the observance of the Lord's Supper.

None but Members of our Church, with those on trial for membership, shall be admitted to the meeting of the Society. It is desirable that the Quarterly Ticket of membership should be brought to the meeting, and shown at the door on entrance (1911, p. 403; 1912, pp. 367, 571-3; 1913, p. 410).

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE SOCIETY

N.B.—1. The references are to the latest octavo edition of *The Minutes of the Conference*, the first volume of which was issued in 1862, and to the crown octavo volumes which have been issued annually since 1878.

2. By the direction of the Conference in 1864 a Compendium of Regulations, which had been specially prepared, was appended to the Rules of the Society in the Class Books, having been previously approved by nearly all the Quarterly Meetings in Great Britain (*Minutes*, 1869, vol. xvii., pp. 620-26). In 1900 and 1901 the Compendium of Regulations was revised and completed by order of the Conference (*Minutes*, 1900, pp. 479-93; 1901, pp. 519-33). We shall consider that a reference to this authoritative document is sufficient

without pointing out, in each case, the time of the original legislation.

RULES BINDING ON MINISTERS AND PEOPLE

All our Rules are equally binding on both the Preachers and the people; and therefore every Superintendent who permits a vote to be taken on the execution or rejection of them shall, on proof at the ensuing Conference, be deprived of the office of Superintendent (1806, vol. ii., p. 348).

NEW RULES

1. It is determined that if at any time the Conference see it necessary to make any new Rule for the Societies at large, and such Rule should be objected to at the first Quarterly Meeting in any given Circuit, and if the major part of that Meeting be of opinion that the enforcing of such Rule in that Circuit will be injurious to the prosperity of that Circuit, it shall not be enforced in opposition to the judgement of such Quarterly Meeting before the second Conference. But if the Rule be confirmed by the second Conference, it shall be binding to the whole Connexion. Nevertheless, any Quarterly Meeting which may reject a new Rule shall not, by publications, public meetings, or otherwise, make that Rule a cause of contention, but shall strive by every means to preserve the peace of the Connexion (1797, vol. i., p. 393; 1852, vol. xii., p. 117; 1901, p. 519).

2. The Superintendents are directed to read to the first Quarterly Meeting after each Conference any new Rule for the Societies at large (1852, vol. xii., p. 117; 1901, p. 519).

1. RELATING TO MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

Statement as to What Constitutes Church Membership

The Conference, being convinced that it is desirable for the guidance of Ministers, Leaders, and Members to set forth a definite statement as to what constitutes membership in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, hereby declares :

1. All persons are welcomed into membership who sincerely desire to be saved from their sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who seek to have fellowship with Christ Himself and His people in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

2. All such shall have their names entered on a Class Book, shall be placed under the pastoral care of a Class Leader, and shall be Members of the weekly Class Meeting.

3. After a probation of not less than three months, those approved shall be admitted to full membership by the Minister, acting in consultation with the Leaders' Meeting, and shall be publicly recognized in the presence of the Church at the earliest opportunity.

4. If any have not previously received Christian Baptism, that Sacrament should be administered either before or in connexion with the Recognition Service.

5. It is expected of all Members that they attend as regularly as possible all the means of grace, public and private. Such are : The worship of God in the congregation, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Class and Society Meetings, and the observance of family and private prayer.

6. Attendance at the Lord's Supper is particularly important, inasmuch as this ordinance is the sign and

seal of the believer's union with Christ ; participation therein is at once his sacred duty and his high privilege.

7. Inasmuch as fellowship forms a vital bond of the Christian Society, and has always been a characteristic note of the Methodist Church, it is required of all who are admitted to Church membership that they shall in some effective way conform to this law of Christ. The weekly Class Meeting has from the beginning proved to be the most effective means of maintaining amongst Methodists true fellowship in Christian experience. All Members should therefore, as far as circumstances will allow, avail themselves of this means of grace, and also of the Society Meeting, which provides for the realization of a common Church life.

8. All Members shall accept the discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and, as far as they are able, contribute to its funds and engage in some form of Christian work.

9. Any Member who, without sufficient reason, persistently absents himself from the Lord's Supper, and from the meetings for Christian fellowship, shall be visited by both his Leader and his Minister, in order that full opportunity for his return to fellowship may be afforded. The names of any who, by prolonged absence from our assemblies, sever themselves from Church membership, shall be removed by the Minister, acting in consultation with the Leaders' Meeting (1913, pp. 348, 565, 566).

N.B.—The Conference in 1912, when adopting the Report on Church Membership, passed, in both its Sessions, the following resolution: 'The Conference trusts that these provisions will be so administered as not in any way to weaken our characteristic Class Meeting fellowship' (1912, pp. 118, 367).

Class Meetings

The Conference cherishes an ever-deepening conviction of the value of that spiritual fellowship with each other which our people have been wont to maintain in a regular attendance on our Class Meetings, believing that in this course the Members of our Societies, of all ages, and all varieties of knowledge, position, and attainment, are best enabled to walk comfortably with God, to nourish that simple and ardent piety which is their only safeguard against the dangers and seductions of the age, to train up spiritually-minded Officers for future service, and to prepare to render up their final account with joy.

The Conference, therefore, exhorts all our Ministers to watch over our Class Meetings with holy jealousy, and to use every effort to maintain them strictly in all their efficiency, directing both their public instructions and their private pastoral influence toward this object with unceasing diligence (1855, vol. xiii., p. 110).

On the subject of the Class Meeting see *Report of the Committee on Church Membership*, adopted by the Conference in 1889 (*Minutes*, pp. 404-413). See pp. 17-19.

Admission into the Society

1. The spiritual concerns shall be managed by the Preachers, who have ever appointed Leaders, chosen Stewards, and admitted Members into and expelled them from the Society, consulting their brethren, the Stewards and Leaders (1794, vol. i., p. 314).

2. No Leader has power to put any person either into or out of the Society (1787, vol. i., p. 194).

3. All persons are welcomed into membership who sincerely desire to be saved from their sins through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and who seek to have fellowship

with Christ Himself and His people in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

4. All such shall have their names entered on a Class Book, shall be placed under the pastoral care of a Class Leader, and shall be Members of the weekly Class Meeting (1913, pp. 348, 565).

5. No Preacher shall give Notes (admitting persons on Trial) to any but those who are recommended by one he knows. It is the Leader's duty to give them the 'Rules of the Society' the first time they meet.

6. Neither the Superintendents, nor any other Preachers, shall give Tickets to any till they are recommended by a Leader, with whom they have met at least three months on Trial (1869, vol. xvii., p. 620 ; 1913, pp. 348, 565).

7. After a probation of not less than three months those approved shall be admitted to full membership by the Minister, acting in consultation with the Leaders' Meeting, and shall be publicly recognized in the presence of the Church at the earliest opportunity (1913, pp. 348, 565).

8. The Leaders' Meeting has a right to declare any person on Trial improper to be received into the Society ; and, after such declaration, the Superintendent shall not admit such person into Society (1869, vol. xvii., p. 620).

This Rule is expounded by the Conference in the terms following : ' That it never was intended that the names of all those who are on Trial should be laid before a Leaders' Meeting for distinct and formal discussion ; but solely, that if there be, in the opinion of a Leader, any reasonable objection to the character and conduct of any person who is on Trial, such objection may be stated by him ; and that, if the validity of the objection be

established to the satisfaction of the Meeting, a Member's Ticket shall not be given to the person so objected to at that Quarterly Visitation' (1842, vol. ix., p. 398 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 620 ; 1901, p. 520).

9. Membership in Junior Society Classes shall be accepted instead of the ordinary probation in the Society Classes, but the term of such probationary membership shall be undefined, and be terminated at the discretion of a Minister of the Circuit. In no case, however, shall the probationary period be less than twelve months (1894, p. 218).

10. No Preacher, excluded for immorality, or who resigns his connexion with the Conference while under charges which affect his moral character, shall at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Member of Society, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained (1817, vol. iv., p. 344 ; 1898, p. 250). See pp. 634, 635.

Members and the Discipline of the Church

All Members shall accept the discipline of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and, as far as they are able, contribute to its funds and engage in some form of Christian work (1913, p. 566).

Recognition of New Members

1. The public and formal Recognition of new Members of Society is in accordance with early Methodist usage. A public welcome given by the Society tends to encourage the new Members, whilst the formal recognition will deepen their sense of responsibility.

Such recognition should be associated, wherever practicable, with the Public Service on the Lord's Day, morning or evening, and be followed by the administra-

tion of the Lord's Supper. In some places it might be found more expedient to recognize new Members at a Society Meeting after the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes; or, in villages, a Recognition Service might take the place of a week evening service.

The Conference therefore directs that, at least two or three times a year, if practicable, Meetings for the Recognition of new Members be held in every Circuit, the frequency and exact nature of such Meetings being left to the discretion of the Superintendent (1890, pp. 317, 318; 1892, p. 333). For '*Form of Service*' see *Minutes*, 1894, pp. 448-54.

2. If any have not received Christian Baptism that Sacrament should be administered either before or in connexion with the Recognition Service (1878, p. 186; 1885, p. 278; 1913, p. 565).

Attendance at the Means of Grace

It is expected of all Members that they attend as regularly as possible all the means of grace, public and private; such are: the worship of God in the congregation, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Class and Society Meetings, and the observance of family and private prayer (1913, p. 565).

Attendance at Class

1. Inasmuch as fellowship forms a vital bond of the Christian Society, and has always been a characteristic note of the Methodist Church, it is required of all who are admitted to Church membership that they shall in some effective way conform to this law of Christ. The weekly Class Meeting has from the beginning proved to be the most effective means of maintaining

among Methodists true fellowship in Christian experience. All Members should therefore, as far as circumstances will allow, avail themselves of this means of grace, and also of the Society Meeting, which provides for the realization of a common Church life (1913, pp. 565, 566).

2. In all cases it is to be considered as the Standing Rule of our Connexion that the Preachers shall strongly advise and encourage the Members of our Societies to meet in Classes which belong to the Circuits in which they reside ; and that the contrary practice, though it cannot in all cases be prohibited, is to be prudently, and as far as possible, discountenanced (1827, vol. vi., p. 280).

3. The far greater number of those that are separated from us exclude themselves by neglecting to meet in Class, and to use the other means of grace, and so gradually forsake us. It must, however, be understood that there exists no Rule which requires a Minister to refuse a Ticket solely on the ground of irregular attendance at Class (1869, vol. xvii., p. 621 ; 1889, p. 409 ; 1901, p. 522). See pp. 14-19, 22, 23.

Notes of Removal

1. The Conference directs that, when a Leaders' Meeting is held, inquiry shall be made as to any removals which have taken place (1913, p. 86).

2. Let no Member removing from one Circuit to another be received into Society without a Note of Removal, signed by one of the Ministers of the Circuit whence he has come (1869, vol. xvii., p. 621 ; 1901, p. 520).

3. The Conference is of opinion that, in the case

of the removal of a Member of one of the Methodist Churches to a locality in which that Church is not represented, it is advisable that arrangements should be made for the authorized transfer of such Member to any other Methodist Church existing in the neighbourhood (1888, p. 212).

Membership Bureau

1. In view of the serious leakage through the removal of Members to the Metropolis owing to the difficulty of ascertaining the Circuits concerned, Superintendents are instructed to direct Notes of Removal in all cases of doubt to the Book Steward, who will undertake, with such aid and organization for the purpose as he may think desirable, to see that the persons concerned are directed to the pastoral care of the Ministers in those Circuits in which they may take up their residence (1906, p. 90).

2. The Conference resolves that the operations of the Bureau shall be extended to the whole of the Connexion, to the Colonies, Foreign Stations, and the United States of America (1907, p. 100).

3. The Conference requires all Ministers, on the removal of any Member, to send to the Bureau Committee full details of the name of the Member and the Circuit to which he is removing, and directs the Chairmen of Districts to call attention to this regulation in the September Synods.

4. The Conference instructs the Bureau Committee to prepare an approved List of Apartments in London, and to forward copies of the same to all the Ministers of our Church (1912, pp. 105, 106; 1914, p. 90).

N.B.—All Removal Notes for the United Kingdom

are to be sent to the Rev. J. Alfred Sharp, the Secretary of the Membership Bureau (1908, pp. 116, 556 ; 1914, p. 428).

Methodist Brotherhood

1. The Conference shall annually appoint a Committee for the purpose of organizing and directing the Methodist Brotherhood, the objects of which shall be:

- (1) To cherish and extend the Brotherhood and Fellowship of the Methodist people, both Members and Adherents, throughout the world.
- (2) To fulfil all the duties and obligations hitherto discharged by the Membership Bureau Committee so far as the Church membership of emigrants is concerned.
- (3) To give such assistance to Methodists leaving the United Kingdom as will secure for them an introduction to Methodist people in distant lands, and also to direct and assist them as far as possible in the matter of employment.
- (4) Whilst the Brotherhood shall not be of a charitable or philanthropic character, it shall endeavour as far as possible to assist emigrants in establishing their homes in a new country.
- (5) In seeking to accomplish these objects the Brotherhood shall co-operate with the Committees of the Methodist people which are, or shall be, formed in other lands.

2. The Headquarters of the Methodist Brotherhood shall be at the Central Buildings, Westminster, where it is hoped that provision will be made for the convenience of visitors from Methodist Churches at home and abroad (1910, p. 109).

N.B.—All Removal Notes of emigrants are to be sent to the Rev. Simpson Johnson, Secretary of the Methodist Brotherhood, Central Buildings, Westminster, S.W.

Roll of Membership

1. Every Superintendent is required to leave for his successor in the Circuit Book, not only a list of the Town and Circuit Stewards, and of the annual subscribers to our several Funds, etc., but especially an exact list of the names of all the Members in his Circuit, arranged in their several Classes and Societies as found at the preceding Midsummer Visitation (1820, vol. v., p. 152).

2. The Conference recommends that a Roll of Membership, compiled from the Class Books, be kept for every Society, the names of Members standing in their several Classes; and that the lists be corrected, if possible, quarter by quarter, or at least once a year. The Superintendent shall be responsible for seeing that the Roll is duly kept (1900, p. 230).

3. At the first Society Meeting in the New Year the Roll of Membership; containing the names of all fully accredited Members on the Class Books, as reported to the Leaders' Meeting, may be read in the Society; and each Member shall be expected to answer to his name (1913, p. 564).

Visitation of the Classes

1. Believing that next to the public 'Ministry of the Word,' the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes is our most important official work; and remembering that to those of our Members who are not accessible for

visitation at their own homes, the Visitation of the Classes is probably their only opportunity of direct intercourse with their Ministers, let us be careful each quarter to meet personally every Class, never sending the Tickets to the Leader.

And in making the Ticket Plan, let us so arrange the Visitation as not to crowd too many Classes together ; but rather, by beginning the work early in the quarter, allow sufficient time in meeting each Class for a careful examination of the Members as to their Christian knowledge, experience, and practice, and for inquiry as to family religion ; and also for suitable pastoral advice, encouragement and admonition, for 'consolation in Christ,' for 'comfort of love,' for 'fellowship of the Spirit.'

And, in connexion with the Visitation of the Classes, let us, on the one hand, inquire particularly into the experience and habits of those whom we find 'on Trial,' and receive into Society those only who, after due probation, may fairly be 'counted worthy.' And, on the other hand, let us not, upon slight grounds, return any person as having 'ceased to meet' ; but, before writing off such an one, let us inquire particularly into the case, let us ourselves visit the person, and thus, 'by all means save some' of the many who 'forsake the assembling of themselves together' (1885, pp. 361, 362).

N.B.—For the visitation of such persons see p. 23.

2. Whilst an Aggregate Meeting of the Members of a Society may occasionally be held with profit and advantage, such a Meeting ought not to take the place of the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes oftener than once a year (1902, p. 517).

Quarterly Returns of Members

The Conference directs that, where practicable, the numbers for each Society be read in the Leaders' Meeting immediately before each quarter day (1893, p. 228).

Annual Return of Members

The number of Members in the Society, and of persons admitted on Trial, as taken at the March Quarterly Visitation in each year, and reported at the District Synods, shall be the number returned on the Minutes of the following Conference (1831, vol. vii., p. 67).

N.B.—These returns of Members in the Society are to be forwarded, immediately after the May Synods, to the Minister named in the *Minutes* (1914, p. 428).

Trial and Exclusion of Members

1. Any Member who, without sufficient reason, persistently absents himself from the Lord's Supper, and the Meetings for Christian Fellowship, shall be visited by both his Leader and Minister, in order that full opportunity for his return to fellowship may be afforded. The names of any who, by prolonged absence from our assemblies, sever themselves from Church membership, shall be removed by the Minister, acting in consultation with the Leaders' Meeting (1913, p. 566).

2. No person shall be entered on the Society Schedule as having ceased to be a Member upon slight or insufficient grounds, nor without particular inquiry into the case, nor without a personal visitation on the part of one of the Ministers of the Circuit (1847, vol. x., p. 550; 1889, p. 409; 1904, p. 544).

3. Much difficulty and confusion have arisen from the varying standards in the minds of Ministers as to the occasions which would warrant the withholding of a Ticket from a Member. It should be borne in mind that it is our Rule that no Member shall, either upon the recommendation of a Leader, or otherwise, be left without a Ticket until he has been personally visited by a Minister. It must also be understood that there exists no Rule which requires a Minister to refuse a Ticket solely on the ground of irregular attendance at Class. No Minister shall remove the name of any person from the Class Book who has not been carefully visited, patiently borne with, faithfully exhorted, earnestly entreated ; or for any other than grave moral or spiritual reasons, or decided and persistent disaffection. And, even in such cases, every person so excluded from the fellowship of the Church must have the opportunity, if he claims it, of having his case judicially decided at a Leaders' Meeting, according to the provisions of our Discipline (1889, p. 409 ; 1900, p. 481 ; 1904, p. 544 ; 1913, p. 566).

4. 'The far greater number exclude themselves by utterly forsaking us.' Continued absence from the Class Meeting or other means of grace, without any sufficient reason, or some manifest breach of the laws of God, or of the particular Rules of our own Connexion, is usually in such cases reported by the Class Leader to the Preacher, at the time of the Quarterly Visitation. If there be no denial of the fact, or satisfactory defence against the charge, on the part of the Member, or of his friends who may be present, and if the Preacher, in the case of alleged crime or misconduct, be of opinion that the offence is one of such grave and serious char-

acter as to require some public testimony of disapprobation, the immediate exclusion of such negligent or offending Member has usually resulted quietly, and as a matter of course, by the Preacher's withholding his Society Ticket, and erasing his name from the Class Book.

But if the Member so charged deny the allegation of a wilful neglect of our particular discipline as to Class Meetings, etc., or a breach of some law of Scripture, or Rule of Methodism, and demand a trial, for the proof or disproof thereof, before the Leaders' Meeting, or before a Committee of Leaders appointed by that Meeting, then such trial must . . . be forthwith conceded. If a majority of the Leaders, who vote at the Meeting, shall be 'satisfied' that sufficient proof is adduced to establish the fact of a wilful and habitual negligence, or of the violation of some Scriptural or Methodistical Rule, and shall give a verdict to that effect, then the Leaders' Meeting has discharged its whole part of the painful duty to be performed, and the case is left in the hands of the Superintendent (1835, vol. vii., p. 579).

5. No person shall be expelled from the Society till his offence has been proved to the satisfaction of a Leaders' Meeting, which Meeting is also entitled to declare, by its verdict, whether the facts alleged are or are not violations of the laws of God or of our own Body. No sentence of expulsion shall be pronounced by the Superintendent till at least one week after the trial of a person accused. In the meanwhile the Superintendent shall seek the fullest information from individual Leaders and other judicious and experienced Members of Society, and shall also confer with his Colleagues at their Weekly Meeting. When the Superintendent has

not a Colleague, and cannot therefore consult a Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of the Circuit, he shall, in every case of the proposed expulsion of a Member of Society, take counsel with the Chairman of the District. Every expelled Member has a right of appeal to a Minor District Synod, to the Annual District Synod,¹ and to the Conference (1869, vol. xvii., p. 621; 1898, p. 253; 1901, p. 523). See pp. 23, 322-327.

N.B.—See *Special Address of the Conference to the Wesleyan Methodist Societies in Great Britain*, in the *Minutes* for 1835 (vol. vii., pp. 578-86).

6. The first ground on which a trial before a Leaders' Meeting is to be conceded to an accused Member is, that the person complained against should deny the charge brought against him. But if the party charged refuses, in the presence of the Leaders' Meeting, either to admit or deny the charge preferred against him, it is hereby declared to be the judgement of the Conference that he is not entitled to demand the production of evidence, nor to claim that his trial should be proceeded with; but the authorities concerned may justly assume that the allegations cannot be denied with truth. Yet, in some cases, it may be competent to the party bringing the complaint to offer proof of the matters charged, if the Superintendent deem it most conducive to the ends of Christian discipline to adopt such a course (1850, vol. xi., p. 482; 1901, p. 523).

7. When a charge is brought against any Member resident in a place where no Leaders' Meeting is statedly held, the case shall be referred for investigation to the Leaders' Meeting of the principal Society in the Circuit

¹ Throughout this work the name District Synod is substituted for District Committee and District Meeting. See p. 441.

town. The Leader or Leaders, and the Society Stewards, of the Society of which the accused is a Member shall be associated with the Leaders' Meeting for the purposes of the investigation (1872, vol. xviii., p. 656).

8. When a Class is visited by a Minister for the renewal of Tickets, and such offensive and disorderly language or conduct is voluntarily obtruded by a Member present, as in the judgement of the Minister may render it highly improper for him to renew the Ticket of that Member until after private conversation with him, the Minister may delay the renewal of a Ticket accordingly. And if the result of such private conversation should be unsatisfactory, the Minister may still retain the Ticket, if he judge it right so to do ; but, in that case, he shall inform the person concerned that he may demand a trial at a Leaders' Meeting ; and shall also report the case, first, to the next Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit (see pp. 35, 36), and then to the Leaders' Meeting of that Society to which the party belongs (1852, vol. xii., p. 116).

For Time Limit in cases of Appeal see p. 40.

N.B.—The Resolutions of the Conference on the Report of the Memorials Committee, contained in the *Minutes* for 1852, should be consulted (vol. xii., pp. 109–117) ; also the Report of the Committee on *The Law of Appeal*, contained in the *Minutes* for 1899, pp. 485–511.

Commercial Failures

1. Whenever any Member of Society becomes a bankrupt, or compounds with his creditors, the Superintendent and one of the Stewards shall talk with him at large. If a formal investigation be considered needful,

a Committee shall be chosen by the Leaders' Meeting for that purpose on the nomination of the Superintendent, to consist of two or more competent persons, Members of Society, who may or may not be members of the Leaders' Meeting ; the Superintendent to be the Chairman. If, on receiving their Report, the Meeting shall conclude that fair accounts have not been kept, or that liabilities have been incurred without a reasonable probability of meeting them, the Superintendent shall proceed according to Rule.

N.B.—See the *Rules of the Society*, pp. 10, 11.

2. On the appointment of such Committee in the case of any Leader, Local Preacher, or Steward, the exercise of his functions shall be discontinued until his case is decided.

3. If any of our Members, who have formerly failed in business, shall afterwards, by the blessing of God, have acquired property, it is their plain duty to pay their whole debt (1869, vol. xvii., p. 623 ; 1901, pp. 524, 525).

N.B.—For special procedure in the case of a Local Preacher see p. 96.

For procedure in the case of a Member who has over-speculated in business, see pp. 40, 41.

Creating Strife in a Circuit

If any local Officer or Member of our Society shall be found endeavouring to create or encourage dissension and strife in his own or in any other Circuit, or addicting himself to injurious railing against either the Doctrine, or the Discipline, or the Ministers of the Connexion, the person so offending shall be admonished by the Superintendent of the error of his ways ; and if he still persist in

his offence shall, after trial in the usual form, if this be demanded, be put away from the Society (1852, vol. xii., p. 115). See *Agitators*, pp. 326, 327.

Trial of Members who are Trustees

1. No Trustee, however accused or defective in conformity to the Rules of the Society, shall be removed from the Society unless his crime or breach of Rule be proved in the presence of the Trustees and Leaders, namely, the Leaders' Meeting of the particular Society of which he is a Member, together with the Trustees of the Chapel with which that Society is connected, such Trustees being themselves Members of the Methodist Society (1794, vol. i., p. 315 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 625). See 1852, vol. xii., p. 116. See also *Summary*, p. 728.

2. When a charge is brought against any Member resident in a place where no Leaders' Meeting is statedly held, the case shall be referred for investigation to the Leaders' Meeting of the principal Society in the Circuit town. The Leader or Leaders, and the Society Stewards of the Society of which the accused is a Member, shall be associated with the Leaders' Meeting for the purpose of the investigation. If the accused person is a Trustee, then there shall also be associated with the Leaders' Meeting, as above constituted, the Trustees of the Chapel with which the Society of which he is a Member is connected ; or, if there is no such Chapel, then the Trustees of the Chapel in connexion with the principal Society in the Circuit town. But no Trustee shall, in either case, be so associated unless he is himself a Member of Society in the same Circuit (1872, vol. xviii., p. 656). See p. 126.

3. The Conference declares that a Trustee or Trustees

may be removed from the Society, as well as any other local Officer or Officers, or Members of the Society, by the authority and direction of the District Synod, whenever a District Synod may be required to interfere with the local affairs of any disturbed Society (1852, vol. xii., p. 116). See *Special District Synod*, pp. 516-18.

Time Limit in Cases of Appeal to a Leaders' Meeting

No Appeal to a Leaders' Meeting shall be received against an act of discipline by a Minister, in withholding a Ticket of Membership, after the completion of twelve months from the time when the Member has been informed by the Minister of such act of discipline (1905, p. 367 ; 1906, p. 333).

Time Limit in Cases of Appeal to the Conference

The Conference resolves that no appeal shall be received after the completion of the year following the Conference immediately succeeding the act of discipline, except by special decision of the Conference (1891, p. 229).

Readmission Into the Society

1. Q. May a relapser into gross sin, showing signs of repentance, be immediately readmitted into the Society? A. Not till after three months (1748, vol. i., p. 40).

2. Q. Should any Superintendent take into the Society any whom his predecessor has put out? A. Not without first consulting him (1780, vol. i., p. 141).

3. If any Member be found to have speculated in business beyond a reasonable probability of his being able to meet every lawful demand, he shall be suspended

from the privileges of the Society for one year at least (1820, vol. v., p. 146).

Contributions in the Classes

1. *Weekly and Quarterly.*—Q. Have the weekly and quarterly contributions been duly made in all our Societies? A. In many they have been shamefully neglected. To remedy this (1) Let every Superintendent remind every Society that this was our original Rule: Every Member contributes one penny weekly (unless he is in extreme poverty), and one shilling quarterly. Explain the reasonableness of this. (2) Let every Leader receive the weekly contribution from each person in his Class. (3) Let the Superintendent ask every person, at changing his Ticket, Can you afford to observe our Rule? and receive what he is able to give (1782, vol. i., p. 158).

N.B.—In 1812 the Conference directed that the foregoing Rules relating to the Contributions in the Classes should be 'reprinted in every future edition of the Society Rules' (vol. iii., p. 293).

2. All Members shall, as far as they are able, contribute to the funds of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1913, p. 566).

See Resolutions of the Conference on the subject of the *Support of the Ministry* in the *Minutes* of 1852 (vol. xii., pp. 118, 119). See p. 466.

The Society Meeting

1. The whole Society in each place shall, wherever possible, be called together, by appointment on the Circuit Plan, at least once a quarter, for purposes of general fellowship amongst its Members, for testimony

concerning Christian experience, and for pastoral guidance and common counsel in the things of the Kingdom of God, both as touching personal religion and the work of God in the congregation and neighbourhood.

2. At the Society Meeting new Members, after being reported to the Leaders' Meeting, shall be introduced by their Leaders to receive the right hand of fellowship. Members transferred from other Societies, or other Churches, shall be introduced. Baptisms that have taken place since the preceding meeting, and losses suffered through death or through the removal of any Members of the Church, shall be reported. New appointments, and retirements of Class Leaders and Stewards, shall be announced. At the first meeting in the New Year the Roll of Membership, containing the names of all fully accredited Members on the Class Books as reported to the Leaders' Meeting, may be read in the Society, and each Member shall be expected to answer to his name. It is recommended that once in the year, if not more frequently, the Society Meeting shall conclude with the observance of the Lord's Supper.

3. None but Members of our Church, with those on trial for membership, shall be admitted to the Meeting of the Society. It is desirable that the Quarterly Ticket of membership should be brought to the Meeting, and shown at the door on entrance (1908, p. 581; 1909, pp. 100, 364; 1910, p. 368). See pp. 19, 20.

4. The Superintendents are directed to appoint at each principal Chapel in their Circuits a Special Society Meeting, for the purpose of having the Pastoral Address read to the Society, and made the subject of suitable remarks and exhortations (1838, vol. viii., p. 360).

Representation of Members in Leaders' Meeting

1. The representation of our Members in Local Church Management shall be secured by the enlargement of the Leaders' Meeting.

2. The elected members of the Leaders' Meeting shall be in the proportion of one in fifty, or fraction of fifty, Members of Society in connexion with that Leaders' Meeting up to four hundred, thus providing for a maximum of eight elected Members.

3. Persons thus elected to the Leaders' Meeting shall thereby become members of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

4. Persons eligible for election to the Leaders' Meeting shall be not less than twenty-one years of age, and shall have been in continuous full membership for at least three years.

5. Persons eligible to take part in the election of Representatives to the Leaders' Meeting shall have been full Members for at least twelve months, and shall be not less than twenty-one years of age. This shall not exclude from voting those persons who are already members of the Quarterly Meeting.

6. Representatives to the Leaders' Meeting shall be chosen, after nomination, either by open voting or by ballot, as the Meeting of Members may determine. The nomination shall be made in the Meeting by any Member who is eligible to take part in the election. The election in each case shall be for one year, provided the membership be maintained.

7. The election of Representatives shall take place annually at an aggregate Devotional Meeting of the Members of each Society, to be held as early in the year as conveniently possible, and shall be presided over

by the Superintendent Minister or one of his Colleagues ; the Members to be admitted to the Meeting by showing their Ticket of membership for the previous quarter.

8. If a vacancy in the number of the elected Representatives should, through any cause, occur during the year, the place may be filled at a Society Meeting duly called, and constituted as in the case of the Meeting described in the preceding paragraph (1908, p. 108 ; 1911, pp. 95, 348).

For Members who are *ex-officio* members of the Leaders' Meeting, see pp. 70, 71.

Local Sunday School Council

N.B.—Among the members of the Local Sunday School Council are 'Members of the Church who are interested in Sunday School work,' who are to be elected 'by the Annual Society Meeting' (1911, p. 511). As to the number of these elected members of the Council, see p. 222.

Public Worship

The Superintendent and other Minister or Ministers stationed in or appointed to the several Circuits undermentioned is and are appointed by the Conference to preach and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline in each and every one of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapels already erected, or to be erected, in each Circuit respectively, within the space of twelve calendar months, at such time or times, and in such manner, as to them shall seem proper ; subject, nevertheless, to the Superintendent Minister and to the existing laws and regulations of the Conference (1835; vol. vii., p. 479, and in the preamble to the Stations of each year). See pp. 343, 344.

Lectionary and Liturgy

1. At Public Worship, on the morning of the Lord's Day, where an order of Morning Service sanctioned by the Conference is not used, the Preacher shall read the Lessons appointed for the day. At every Public Religious Service at least one chapter of the Holy Scriptures shall be read before the Sermon is preached; and the Conference again recommends the use of the Psalms in Public Worship (1795, vol. i., p. 340; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 622; 1901, p. 525).

2. The Conference earnestly recommends that, wherever practicable, the Revised Version, if not already used in the pulpit, shall be supplied for the public reading of the Scriptures throughout the Connexion (1904, p. 359).

N.B. 1.—In 1889 it was resolved that a Table of Lessons for Public Worship should be prepared. In 1904 the Conference directed the Editor to prepare a Lectionary, and also directed that a small Committee should be associated with him in its preparation (1889, p. 205; 1904, p. 361; 1906, p. 338).

In 1910 the Conference resolved that, at the end of every triennial period the Lectionary should be revised so that the ordinary Lessons appointed for the morning service in the period thus ending shall be read in the evening and the evening series in the morning (1910, p. 368).

2. A Revised Edition of *The Book of Public Prayers and Services for the Use of the People called Methodists* was adopted by the Conference in 1881 (*Minutes*, p. 208).

Hymns

1. Let no books of hymns be henceforth used in our Chapels except the hymn-books printed for our Book Room (1805, vol. ii., p. 290).

2. Let our Preachers take care to examine the hymns which are to be sung in our Chapels when charity sermons are to be preached, or on other particular occasions; and let them reject all those which are not decidedly unobjectionable in point of sentiment and of poetry. And we earnestly recommend that our own authorized hymns be generally preferred for all such purposes (1815, vol. iv., p. 121).

Prayer and Singing

We strongly recommend all our people to kneel at prayer; and we desire that all our pews may, as far as possible, be so formed as to admit of this in the easiest manner.

We strongly urge on the congregations the propriety and importance of standing while they sing the praises of God. Let the original, simple, grave, and devotional style be carefully preserved; which, instead of drawing attention to the singing and the singers, is so admirably calculated to withdraw it from both, and to raise the soul to God only (1869, vol. xvii., p. 622; 1901, p. 525). See pp. 343, 344.

The Conference resolves that in the schedule of application for leave to build or rebuild any Place of Worship, a recommendation shall be inserted to the effect that the accommodation shall be so arranged as to allow those who wish to kneel in prayer to do so (1908, p. 113).

The Sacraments

The Lord's Supper shall be administered according to the Form appointed by the Conference ; but the person who administers shall have liberty to give out hymns, to use exhortation, and extemporary prayer. The Administration of Baptism, and the Burial of the Dead, shall be determined by the same regulations (1869, vol. xvii., p. 622 ; 1901, p. 526). See pp. 49-51.

Public Prayers and Services

N.B.—A revised edition of *The Book of Public Prayers and Services* was adopted by the Conference in 1881 and 1882. In adopting the revised Form of the Baptismal Service, the following words were used : ' It was resolved that in thus adopting a revised Form of the Baptismal Service, the Conference does not prohibit the use of any Forms which have heretofore been approved by the Conference ' (1882, p. 223).

Baptism

1. Let the ordinance of Baptism, if possible, be always administered in the public congregation.

Let us administer it, in general, only to the children of our own Members, and those of our regular hearers (1812, vol. iii., p. 292 ; 1840, vol. ix., p. 94 ; 1900, p. 486).

At Baptism both parents are expected to be present (1869, vol. xvii., p. 622 ; 1900, p. 486).

The Conference directs that the Sacrament of Baptism shall be administered, not at the close of the Public Service, but before the Sermon (1840, vol. ix., p. 94).

2. The Conference directs the Stationing Committee, year by year, to prepare a list of appointments in which

permission should be granted to Probationers to administer the Sacraments. In cases of special emergency application for a dispensation shall be made to the President of the Conference, through the Chairman of the District (1902, p. 359).

3. Those of our Preachers on Trial who shall be deemed proper to be appointed for this purpose by their respective Superintendents shall be allowed to administer the holy Sacrament of Baptism. But this permission shall extend only to private administration, in cases where children cannot be brought to the house of God, and where there are circumstances of great emergency, which will not allow the administration to be conveniently delayed (1829, vol. vi., p. 513).

4. (1) Proper books, with printed forms, for the Registration of Baptisms shall be provided, and the necessary record regularly made, and signed by the officiating Minister, whenever the Sacrament of Baptism is administered in our Chapels. (2) Inquiry shall be made in the Annual Meetings of the District Synods whether this Regulation has been duly observed (1841, vol. ix., p. 251).

Baptized Children in Relation to the Church

Full advantage shall be taken of the opportunity afforded by Baptism to impress upon parents their supreme obligation to teach and bring up their children for Christ; and, inasmuch as all baptized children have been received into Christ's flock to be trained in the doctrines, privileges, and duties of the Christian religion, it is incumbent on the Church, and especially on its Ministers, to extend to them the largest possible measure of pastoral care and systematic attention (1902, p. 352).

The Lord's Supper

1. Attendance at the Lord's Supper is particularly important, inasmuch as this Ordinance is the sign and seal of the believer's union with Christ; participation therein is at once his sacred duty and his high privilege (1913, p. 565). See pp. 11, 13, 14, 22, 23.

2. The Lord's Supper shall be administered by the Superintendent only, or such of his Colleagues who are in Full Connexion as he shall appoint (1795, vol. i., p. 337).

N.B.—For Administration of the Sacraments by Probationers see pp. 47, 48.

3. We earnestly beseech all the Members of our Societies conscientiously to attend this sacred ordinance of God our Saviour at every opportunity, and to make a point of staying till the whole service be concluded.

In the Visitation of the Classes let every Preacher closely examine the Members on this head, and strongly enforce our Rules concerning it. And, in order to remove every excuse, let this blessed Sacrament be regularly and frequently administered (1806, vol. ii., pp. 348, 349; 1901, p. 526). See p. 50.

4. The Conference is impressed with the advisability of arranging for the more frequent administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on week-days in those Places where it is difficult to arrange for its administration on Sundays. The Conference directs Superintendents of Circuits to pay special attention to this important matter (1896, p. 230).

5. No person shall be suffered, on any pretence, to partake of the Lord's Supper among us unless he be a Member of Society, or receive a Note of Admission from the Superintendent (or from the Preacher administering).

which Note must be renewed quarterly (1796, vol. i., p. 365 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 622).

It is most important that a united and earnest attempt should be made to secure the presence of all our Members, and the showing of Tickets, at the Lord's Supper. As regards strangers occasionally attending our services, who desire to participate with us, they may reasonably be expected to assure the Minister of their fitness, by explaining to him that they are Members of another Church, or for what reason, not being Members of any Church, they desire to be Communicants ; and such occasional cases can be met by the issue of a special Note of Admission by the Minister. That the Table of the Lord should be open to all comers is surely a great discredit and a serious peril to any Church (1889, p. 412).

Practical Suggestions concerning the Administration of the Lord's Supper

1. It is desirable that the subject of the Lord's Supper should be dealt with more frequently in the pulpit, so that our people may be reminded of their duty and privilege in this matter.

2. The Lord's Supper should be administered once a month in all our principal Churches ; and, in order to provide for all classes of Communicants, it is important that a morning Communion be arranged for, especially in connexion with our larger congregations.

3. It is desirable that the Lord's Supper be administered in every Society at least once a quarter, either some time on the Lord's Day, or, where that is not possible, at some time during the week when the Minister visits the place.

4. In order to secure intelligent and reverent participation in the Service, a copy of our Form of Service should be provided for each Communicant, and this Form, which is sometimes neglected, should be faithfully used by our Ministers, and suitable hymns selected. In this way the Service may be made more impressive and helpful to those who take part in it.

5. In the interest of Probationers and Local Preachers an occasional administration of the Lord's Supper in connexion with the Quarterly Meeting, or the Local Preachers' Meeting, would be found helpful (1900, pp. 229, 230).

Individual Communion Cups

The Conference pronounces that this is a matter within the discretion of the Superintendent acting in conjunction with the Leaders' Meeting (1904, p. 116).

Sacramental Wine

1. The Conference cannot sanction the use of anything which is not the 'fruit of the vine' in the administration of the Lord's Supper.

2. The Conference cannot sanction any usage in the administration of that Ordinance, which is the expression of Christian unity, which would tend to divide Members into two classes.

3. It believes that the use of Rota Tent Wine, so extensively used among professing Christians at the Supper of the Lord, would avoid all reasonable cause of offence, either to abstainers or non-abstainers (1877, vol. xx., p. 436).

Funeral Sermons

Let no funeral sermon be preached without the consent of the Superintendent (1869, vol. xvii., p. 622).

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15417

Lovefeasts

1. Let no Lovefeast be held but with the consent of the Superintendent (1869, vol. xvii., p. 622).

2. Let no Local Preacher keep Lovefeasts without the appointment of the Superintendent (1796, vol. i., p. 361).

3. No person not willing to join our Society shall be admitted to a Lovefeast more than once, nor then without a Note from a Travelling Preacher. We entreat both our Preachers and our Stewards to observe this direction; and let it be also understood, that any person who is proved to have lent a Society Ticket to another not in Society, for the purpose of deceiving the door-keepers, shall be suspended for three months (1808, vol. iii., p. 31).

Whenever possible, we should return to our former plan of holding Lovefeasts in the afternoon of the Lord's Day, allowing no admission except by Class or Communicant's Ticket, or by Note from the Minister. Where it is necessary to hold them after the evening service, distinct intimation should be given previously that only those persons are entitled to remain who are Members of our Church, or who shall have received from the Minister a special Note of Admission. Then the Stewards shall pass from pew to pew to see the Tickets, or in some other way ascertain that only qualified persons are present (1889, p. 412).

4. *Q.* How long should a Lovefeast last? *A.* Never above an hour and a half (1765, vol. i., p. 51).

5. The money collected at the Lovefeasts shall be most conscientiously given to the poor (1789, vol. i., p. 224).

Covenant Service

1. The annual solemnity of Renewing the Covenant, as practised among us, may, if duly prepared for and improved, afford a means of great usefulness in quickening the zeal of our people and in bringing many to decide for a religious life. The Conference therefore advises and urgently recommends the Ministers to use all due care in preparing for that observance (1854, vol. xii., p. 474).

2. As many of the Members of our Church in village Societies cannot take part in the Annual Covenant Service when held only in our principal Chapels, the Conference directs Superintendents to arrange, when necessary, for additional Covenant Services for the smaller Societies, to be conducted by Ministers on the week-nights at the commencement of the New Year ; and that, in connexion with these Services, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper be administered (1893, p. 228).

3. The Rule concerning showing Tickets should be strictly observed in reference to the Covenant Service (1889, p. 412).

Prayer Meetings

See pp. 357, 701, 705.

Band Meetings

1. No Band Meetings shall be held without the approbation of the Superintendent (1806, vol. ii., p. 348).

2. Let every Superintendent address to the believers under his care, met in their respective Societies, a strong and appropriate exhortation on the excellency of Band Meetings.

Let him meet all the Leaders of the Societies, and

form out of their Classes as many Bands as possible from those believers who do not at present meet in Band, and who are willing so to do ; putting into each Band those who are most acquainted with each other.

Let him afterwards receive the applications of all the Members of the Bands with the utmost kindness and attention, so as to remove them from one Band to another and to meet the desires of each as far as possible.

The Weekly Meetings commonly called the Meetings of the Public Bands shall be established and attentively preserved wherever the number of those who meet in Band will admit it (1812, vol. iii., p. 292).

SUNDRY POINTS OF DISCIPLINE

Observance of the Lord's Day

All Members of the Society are required to observe the Lord's Day with religious care ; in accordance with the oft-repeated advices and directions of the Conference, and, above all, with the abiding precepts of God's Word (1795, vol. i., p. 336 ; 1846, vol. x., p. 395 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 623 ; 1901, pp. 56, 57). See p. 620.

Of Marriage

Some of our Members have married with ungodly persons. This has had fatal effects. They have either had a cross for life, or turned back to the world. To put a stop to this, every Preacher is enjoined to enforce frequently the Apostle's caution, ' Be ye not unequally yoked.' Let all single persons be reminded of the injunction to marry ' only in the Lord ' ; and exhorted to take no steps, in so weighty a matter, without taking counsel of their parents, and advising with the most

serious of their Christian friends (1869, vol. xvii., p. 623 ; 1901, p. 527).

Family Religion

We again earnestly enforce upon all the people under our care a conscientious and uniform attention to this important subject, and solemnly exhort them to maintain the practice of daily prayer in their houses ; to have stated times allotted for this purpose ; to make the daily reading of the Holy Scriptures a constant part of their domestic devotion ; to require not only some but all the members of their respective families to be present at the time of family worship.

We require all our Preachers to make particular inquiries into the state of family religion in their Circuits ; to enforce the duties above mentioned in the Leaders' Meetings, and in the Society Meetings ; and to speak on the subject closely and strongly in every Class in their Quarterly Visitations of the Societies (1811, vol. iii., p. 221 ; 1901, p. 527). See pp. 349-355.

Conformity to the World

The Rules of the Society forbid 'diversions' which 'cannot be used in the name of the Lord Jesus' ; and the drinking of spirituous liquors, 'unless in cases of extreme necessity.' The obligation to 'do all to the glory of God' implies an avoiding of all questionable recreations and indulgences ; in particular, of such as lead into worldly company, or promote trifling, or indispose for the use of the Word of God and prayer.

The repeated Regulations of the Conference against dancing are clearly intended to condemn the practice, not only in Schools and among pupils, but among

Methodists at large. They fall within the Scriptural requirements, that Christians 'abstain from all appearance of evil,' and, instead of approaching as nearly as possible to the fashions and customs of the ungodly, 'come out from among them, and be separate' (1869, vol. xvii., p. 622 ; 1901, p. 527).

On Dancing see *Minutes*, 1791, vol. i., p. 256 ; 1856, vol. xiii., p. 302.

Trust Properties and Amusements and Entertainments

1. Having regard to the growing practice of using our Trust Properties for amusements and other purposes not contemplated in the formation of the several Trusts, the Conference calls the attention of Ministers and Trustees to the terms of their several Trust Deeds. The Conference reminds the Superintendents of Circuits that our Trust Properties can only legally be used for such purposes as are in accordance with the provisions of the Deeds. Such purposes are declared by the Chapel Model Deed to be, 'For places of Religious Worship and for public and other Meetings and Services held according to the General Rules and Usage of the People called Methodists, as they appear in and by the Annual Minutes of the Conference from time to time published' (1880, p. 191).

2. The Conference has reason to believe that in certain localities entertainments have been allowed which are, to say the least, highly inexpedient, and that in a few cases the practice obtains of holding entertainments which are altogether inconsistent with the purposes for which our property is held in trust. The Conference therefore directs that the greatest possible care must be taken not to allow premises set apart for

religious purposes to be used for entertainments which would bring a reproach upon the Church or constitute a ground of offence to our people generally. The Conference further urges Ministers and Trustees to exercise a wise discrimination in regard to these matters, especially in view of the fact that certain entertainments which may be innocent in themselves are associated in the public mind with the gambling spirit of the age, and are altogether at variance with the objects for which the Methodist Church exists. At the same time the Conference is of opinion that, in certain localities where the people have little opportunity of wholesome recreation, such recreation may with advantage be permitted (1908, p. 107).

3. The Conference regrets to find that in a few cases Trustees have proposed to apply for a Dramatic Licence for the purpose of allowing dramatic entertainments on our premises, and that in some parts of the country entertainments and amusements have been countenanced which ought not to be associated with places set apart for Religious Worship or for Sunday Schools. The Conference strongly disapproves of any application for Licences that might give the impression that our Trust Property could under any condition be used for the purposes mentioned, which are so alien to the traditions, character, and aims of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The Conference declares that dancing, card-playing, games of chance, entertainments which legally require a Dramatic Licence, and amusements of a frivolous and vulgar type are contrary to the 'General Rules and Usages of the People called Methodists' as affecting the use of our Trust Property, and cannot be allowed (1909, p. 109).

Trust Properties and Political Meetings

Having regard to the fact that a desire has been expressed in some places to use our Trust Property for the purpose of Political Meetings, the Conference declares that such uses are not contemplated by the provisions of any of our Trust Deeds ; and it reminds Superintendents and Trustees that our Trust Properties can only be lawfully used for the purposes provided for in the Trust Deeds. The Conference further expresses the conviction that any such use of the premises as that suggested would be detrimental to the best interests of our Societies by endangering their peace and unity (1885, p. 185).

Municipal and Semi-political Matters

It is not within the province of any person occupying our pulpits to submit resolutions and take votes on Municipal and semi-political matters, nor to ask the Congregation to vote thereon at the close of the Service in our Chapels on the Lord's Day (1904, p. 361).

Trust Properties and Parish Councils

The question having arisen as to the desirability of allowing the use of our Trust Property for Meetings of Parish Councils, and in view of the importance of uniform action in this matter, the Conference declares its opinion that our Schools, Halls, and Trust Property, other than the Buildings registered and actually in use for Public Worship, may be let by the Trustees for Meetings of Parish Councils in those places in which no other suitable accommodation can be found, provided that the use of the property for our own Church purposes be not interfered with, and that a suitable rent be paid to the Trustees (1894, p. 323).

Trust Properties and Friendly Societies

The Conference approves of Friendly Societies and Approved Societies under the National Insurance Act being encouraged to hold their meetings in Wesleyan Methodist Schools or Vestries, especially where there is no other public building available for the purpose; care being taken to avoid any action which would render the Trust Property liable to rates (1896, p. 333; 1913, p. 95).

Days of Fasting

A general Fast shall be held in all our Societies the first Friday after New Year's Day, after Lady Day, after Midsummer Day, and after Michaelmas Day (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624; 1901, p. 528).

JUNIOR SOCIETY CLASSES

1. In connexion with our Societies, Classes shall be generally established which shall directly provide for the religious instruction of young people. They shall have as their object the early conversion of the children to God, their instruction and training in Christian doctrines and morality, and the development of Christian experience and character. For these purposes Holy Scripture shall be largely used. As a rule, these Classes shall be met week by week.

2. When these Classes are not in the hands of Ministers they may be entrusted to other persons who have been approved by the vote of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society with which the Classes are connected, after nomination by the Superintendent Minister. At the Meeting following the appointment, the person so

appointed shall be present, and an address shall be given by the Minister setting forth the nature and importance of the office.

3. All the recognized Members of such Classes shall be enrolled in books to be provided for the purpose. No one shall be considered a Member of such a Class unless he has attended at least three months, and is recommended by the Leader of the Class.

4. Each young person so recognized as a Member shall receive a Ticket, provided by the Book Room, signed by a Minister of the Circuit, and renewable every quarter. A return of the number of young persons to whom such Tickets are given shall be made quarterly to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, and annually through the District Synods to the Conference.

5. Membership in these Classes shall be accepted instead of the ordinary probation in the Society Classes, but the term of such probationary membership shall be undefined, and be terminable at the discretion of a Minister of the Circuit. In no case, however, shall the probationary period be less than twelve months.

6. These Classes shall be met once a quarter by a Minister for the renewal of Tickets, as already provided ; and at such quarterly visitation the Minister shall give Tickets of full membership, with the Rules of the Society, to such Members of the Classes as, after consultation with the Leader, he shall deem eligible for admission into the Church as full Members.

7. In all cases where full Members' Tickets are given, the names must be entered in an ordinary Society Class-book, under a duly appointed Class Leader. These Members may continue to meet in the Junior Society Class in which they have heretofore met if, in the judge-

ment of the Minister and the Leaders' Meeting, the Junior Society Leader is a suitable person to be appointed as a Class Leader. In such a case the Leader, if not already a Class Leader in the full and ordinary sense, shall be nominated as such at a Leaders' Meeting ; and, as early as possible after his election to this position, the Minister shall address him specially on the duties of his new office. When a Junior Society Leader is not so appointed, all Members of his Junior Society Class who receive Tickets of full Membership must be transferred to the Class of a duly appointed Class Leader.

8. It shall be a special duty of the Ministers, in association with the Leaders of the Junior Society Classes, to prepare the minds of the Members for taking the Lord's Supper, and for their public recognition as fully received Members of the Church.

9. The Members of these Classes shall not be liable to assessment for Connexional Funds ; but, with due discretion, they shall be encouraged to support the Ministry by weekly contributions or otherwise (1878, p. 184 ; 1894, pp. 214, 218, 219).

10. The Conference earnestly recommends the Leaders of Junior Society Classes to make systematic use of our First and Second Catechisms in their weekly Meetings with the young people of their charge (1883, p. 183).

11. All Leaders of Junior Society Classes shall be members of the Leaders' Meeting and of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, provided they have reached the age of twenty-one years (1910, p. 368 ; 1911, p. 352 ; 1912, p. 366).

12. All Junior Class Leaders shall be entitled to attend the Annual Circuit Meeting of Class Leaders,

but only those can vote who have reached the age of twenty-one years (1912, p. 369).

II. RELATING TO THE OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

Doctrinal Qualification of Officers

No person shall, on any account, be permitted to retain any official situation in our Societies who holds opinions contrary to the total depravity of human nature, the Divinity and Atonement of Christ, the influence and witness of the Holy Spirit, and Christian Holiness, as believed by the Methodists (1807, vol. ii., p. 405).

N.B.—For Sunday School Teachers see p. 203.

Office-Bearers and the Liquor Traffic

The Conference rejoices in the progress of Temperance sentiment and practice in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and recommends our people to keep from complicity with a traffic the results of which are so injurious to the interests of religion, morality, and social life. The Conference earnestly urges that this shall be borne in mind in the administration of our Circuits, and especially in the appointment of Office-Bearers (1904, p. 108).

Residence and Sphere of Work

1. It is a settled and uniform principle of our Discipline, that persons acting as Local Preachers, Class Leaders, Stewards, Conductors of Prayer Meetings, or Exhorters, or sustaining any other office in our Body, shall belong to the Circuits in which they severally reside, and shall confine their stated and regular labours within

the geographical boundaries of those Circuits ; unless the Superintendent of their own respective Circuits shall deem it advisable, in rare and extraordinary cases, and for some special purpose connected with the prosperity of the work of God, to consent to a temporary suspension of this principle (1827, vol. vi., p. 281).

2. No person who is a Class Leader in any Circuit shall be appointed a Class Leader in a Mission district, without the consent of the Superintendent of the Circuit to which he belongs (1885, p. 231).

Pastoral Address

The Superintendents are directed gratuitously to furnish every Steward, Local Preacher, and Leader, in their respective Circuits, with a copy of the Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Societies (1821, vol. v., p. 251).

Returns to the Conference

The Conference directs :

1. That the number of Local Preachers and Class Leaders shall be annually reported in *The Minutes of the Conference*.

2. That this return shall embrace the following particulars :

(1) Accredited Local Preachers. See p. 95.

(2) Society Classes ; Junior Society Classes.

(3) Ministerial Class Leaders ; Lay Class Leaders ; Leaders of Junior Society Classes (1883, p. 182).

3. For the returns for the District Local Preachers' Committee see p. 98.

For returns from Circuits of the number of Classes and Class Leaders, see 1914, p. 614.

4. In order to avoid discrepancy in statistics furnished to District Synods on the President's Circular, and also to Connexional Departments, or District Committees, all Schedules shall be signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit. Except where absolutely necessary, a double return shall not be required (1898, p. 365).

Official Returns

See pp. 137, 138.

STEWARDS

Account Books

The temporal concerns of the Society shall be managed by the Stewards chosen for that purpose, who shall keep books, wherein all moneys collected, received, or disbursed on account of their respective Societies, shall be entered (1794, vol. i., p. 314).

Appointment and Removal

1. No person shall be appointed a Society Steward, or Poor Steward, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting; the nomination to be with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting (1797, vol. i., p. 391; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 624).

2. The office of a Steward ceases at the end of the year; and no Steward shall remain in office above three years in succession, except in some extraordinary case.¹

¹ This Rule does not apply to Chapel Stewards, who are appointed by the Trustees. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, p. 718.

3. When a Steward has been removed from his office by disciplinary action, he has the right of appeal against the sentence to the District Synods and the Conference (1899, pp. 240, 505).

See Report of Committee on *The Law of Appeal* (1899, pp. 485-511).

4. Circuit Stewards are to be appointed at a Quarterly Meeting ; the nomination being with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Meeting (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624).

Circuit Stewards and District Synods

1. Circuit Stewards are members of the Financial District Synod, and have also a right to attend the Annual Meeting of the District Synod during the transaction of certain parts of its business (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624). See pp. 171-73.

2. Substitutes for Circuit Stewards duly elected at the March Quarterly Meeting shall be empowered, if need be, to attend the September as well as the May Synod (1908, p. 115).

Circuit Stewards and Leaders' Meetings

The Conference resolves that Circuit Stewards shall be, *ex officio*, members of the Leaders' Meeting of the Society to which they belong (1872, vol. xviii., p. 653).

Chapel Stewards

N.B.—Chapel Stewards and Treasurers are not, *ex officio*, Officers of the Society.

It shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, at any meeting to be convened and held as hereinafter men-

tioned, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at their discretion, to appoint any person, or persons, of decent and sober conduct and good reputation, to be a Steward, or Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship; and, at their will and pleasure, to remove and to dismiss such Steward, or Stewards, or any of them; and, the duty of the Steward, and Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall be to see and attend to the orderly conducting of the secular business and affairs of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, under the direction and superintendence of the Trustees of the time being of these presents, or the major part of them. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 718, 719.

Chapel Stewards and their Accounts

1. The Trustees, in conjunction with the Superintendent, shall choose their own Stewards. The Stewards shall keep proper accounts in books provided for that purpose, which books shall be open for the inspection of the Superintendent, and audited in his presence once every year, or oftener if convenient (1794, vol. i., p. 315; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 625).

2. The Trustees shall and will, from time to time, and at all seasonable times hereafter, upon the request of the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, produce, and show forth, to him, and to every person whom he shall desire to see the same, all and every such Book and Books of Accounts and Minutes, documents, articles, matters, and things, and permit and suffer copies, or abstracts of, or extracts from them, or any of them,

to be made and taken by the said Superintendent Preacher, or by any person or persons whom he shall from time to time desire to make and take the same. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 719, 720.

N.B.—The procedure in the case of the appointment of the Treasurers of Chapels settled on the Chapel Model Deed is determined by the Trusts contained in that Deed. The Deed also states the conditions under which the Chapel Accounts must be audited. See pp. 719-21.

CLASS LEADERS

Appointment to Office

1. In accordance with our established usage, Ministers are authorized to give Class Books to suitable persons where occasion requires, but such an arrangement shall not constitute a person a Leader until he has been duly appointed by the Superintendent in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting.

2. Before any person is nominated for the office of Class Leader or Assistant Leader, the Superintendent Minister, in consultation with his Colleague, or Colleagues, shall assure himself that such person is of suitable religious character, possesses the necessary gifts, and is loyally attached to the doctrines and discipline of our Church (1910, p. 602).

3. No person shall be appointed a Leader but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting, the nomination to be with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting (1797, vol. i., p. 391 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 624 ; 1910, p. 365).

4. No Preacher excluded for immorality, or who resigns his connexion with the Conference while under

charges which affect his moral character, shall at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Class Leader, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained (1817, vol. iv., p. 344; 1897, pp. 243, 244; 1898, p. 250).

5. In the case of small village Societies where no suitable Leader can be found, it is desirable that a Leader should be appointed from an adjoining Town or Society, who shall make the care and development of that Class his special service to the Church. Where this is not possible, it is recommended that Local Preachers be requested to conduct a Class Meeting in connexion with their preaching appointment (1910, p. 602).

Efficiency of Leaders

The Conference declares that the Leaders' Meeting possesses disciplinary powers which it can exercise in cases where the Leaders' character or work is unsatisfactory. If it should be decided that, in the interests of a Class, the Leader should be removed from his office, the Superintendent shall proceed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (1910, p. 365).

Removal from Office

1. No Leader shall be removed from his office but in conjunction with a Leaders' Meeting. The power to propose such removal, also the right to remove, shall be with the Superintendent as in the case of the appointment of a Leader, and the approval or disapproval with the Leaders' Meeting (1797, vol. i., p. 391; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 624; 1910, p. 365).

2. Where a Leader has been removed from his office by disciplinary action, he has the right of appeal against the sentence to the District Synods and the Conference (1899, pp. 240, 505).

Work

N.B.—The Business of a Leader is briefly stated in the *Rules of the Society* (see p. 8). Since the 'General Rules of our Societies' were drawn up the work of a Class Leader has been increased.

1. Let us affectionately, but firmly, enforce on the Leaders, as an essential article of our pastoral discipline, and one which, in consequence of our own constant itinerancy, cannot be dispensed with, the Rule of the Society in which it is stated to be the duty of a Leader 'to see every Member in his Class once in every week' (1820, vol. v., p. 150).

2. Let our Superintendents urge on the Leaders 'the duty of collecting weekly in every Class the subscriptions of our Members for the support of the Gospel' (1826, vol. vi., p. 168).

Assistant Leaders

Where a Society Class is large, a Leader infirm, or it appears otherwise expedient, an Assistant Leader may be appointed by the Leaders' Meeting on the nomination of the Superintendent, and such Assistant shall be a member of the Leaders' Meeting. The number of Assistant Leaders who shall be members of the Leaders' Meeting shall not exceed one Assistant for one Class. Assistant Leaders shall be members of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. The appointment of Assistant

Leaders shall be an annual, instead of a permanent one (1907, pp. 99, 348 ; 1909, p. 109 ; 1911, pp. 340, 411).

LEADERS' MEETINGS

Attendance of Ministers at Official Meetings

All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial appointed to a Circuit have a constitutional right to take part as members in our Leaders' Meetings, and in all other official Meetings of the Circuit to which they are appointed (1852, vol. xii., p. 121).

N.B.—This Regulation does not apply to Trustees' Meetings. Their constitution is determined by the Trust Deed.

Governor of Richmond College

In consideration of the responsibility of the Resident Tutor of the College at Richmond for the supply of the pulpit of the College Chapel, the Conference appoints him to be a member of the Leaders' Meeting at that Chapel (1894, p. 226).

Constitution

1. The Ministers and Preachers on Trial who are appointed to the work of the Circuit (1852, vol. xii., p. 121).

2. The Class Leaders, the Society Stewards, and Poor Stewards of that Society ; together with any Circuit Steward or Stewards who may be Members of that Society.

3. The Assistant Class Leaders of that Society, such Assistants not to exceed one Assistant for one Class. See p. 69.

4. The Leaders of the Junior Classes of that Society, provided they have reached the age of twenty-one years. See p. 61.

5. The Representatives of the Society in connexion with the Leaders' Meeting who have been elected in accordance with the Regulations of the Conference. See pp. 43, 44.

6. The Chief or General Superintendent of each Sunday School of that Society with which the Sunday School is connected, he being a Member of Society, and not a member of any other Leaders' Meeting (1913, pp. 61, 83, 354). See p. 203.

7. When a Secretary is appointed in any Leaders' Meeting, such Secretary must be chosen from among the members of that Meeting (1874, vol. xix., p. 454; 1900, p. 488).

N.B.—1. A Minister residing in a Circuit 'without pastoral charge' shall not, as a Minister, be a member of any Leaders' Meeting in the Circuit (1888, p. 215).

2. A Supernumerary is not, as a Minister, a member of a Leaders' Meeting (1901, p. 529).

Enlargement of the Leaders' Meeting

See pp. 43, 44.

Disciplinary Functions of the Enlarged Meeting

The disciplinary functions of the enlarged Leaders' Meeting shall be the same as those exercised by the Leaders' Meeting as heretofore constituted (1908, pp. 97, 107, 108; 1909, pp. 100, 364).

Minutes of Cases of Discipline

The Conference directs that in all our Circuits separate Minute Books shall be kept for cases of Discipline

in Leaders' Meetings ; and that such Minute Books shall be under the care of the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit for the time being, who shall be responsible for their safe custody (1914, pp. 373, 374).

Combined Meetings

For the purpose of representing, when necessary, the general interests of the Society in regard to any special purpose or object that needs to be dealt with, combined meetings of the Leaders' Meeting with the Trustees, the Local Sunday School Council, or any other local body connected with the Society, may be held occasionally (1891, p. 329).

Chairman

The Superintendent of the Circuit is, *ex officio*, the Chairman of all official Meetings of the Circuit (1901, p. 532).

Spirit in which Official Meetings should be Conducted

In conducting our Leaders' and Quarterly Meetings, and all other official Meetings among us, let us affectionately and steadily discountenance the spirit of strife and debate, and promote, in the management of all our affairs, both by our advice and example, the temper and manner of men who are acting for God in the service of His Church. Let the introduction of all topics of useless or irritating discussion, not legitimately connected with the proper business of such Meetings, be prudently repressed. Let us remember that, in a large Body, the only way to live in peace and comfort is to walk by rule, and (to use the language of Mr. Wesley) 'not to mend our Rules, but to keep them for conscience'

sake.' And while we readily and cheerfully protect all our Members, in Meetings in which we preside, in the exercise of such functions as belong to them according to our Laws and General Usages, let us not forget that we are under solemn obligations to conduct ourselves on such occasions, not as the mere Chairmen of public meetings, but as the Pastors of Christian Societies, put in trust by the ordinance of God, and by their own voluntary association with us, with the Scriptural superintendence of their spiritual affairs, and responsible to the great Head of the Church for the faithful discharge of the duties of that trust (1820, vol. v., p. 150).

Jurisdiction of Meeting

The Leaders' Meeting, our first Court of Discipline, is, as its name indicates, mainly a meeting of 'Leaders of Classes,' and its jurisdiction extends as far as the Classes themselves extend. But the Leaders' Meeting represents and embodies in a peculiar way pastoral care, because the Leaders may be described as Sub-Pastors, and are links between the Members and the Ministers. In a Leaders' Meeting, if it be rightly and regularly conducted, the Minister is made aware of the condition of the Church ; the needs of the poor, the sick, the spiritually feeble, and the tempted are brought under his attention, and pastoral oversight is thereby made in all cases easier, and in some cases possible, where it would otherwise have been impossible (1889, p. 406).

Meetings to be Regularly Held

1. Let us regularly meet the Class Leaders, both in town and country ; and at each Leaders' Meeting, let

us carefully examine the entries made in the Class Books relative to the attendance of the Members, in order that prompt and practical measures may be taken in cases which, on inquiry, shall be found to demand the exercise of discipline, 'the word of exhortation,' or kindly counsel and Christian sympathy.

From the beginning, Leaders' Meetings have been found essential to the pastoral care and spiritual prosperity of our Societies, and also to the orderly transaction of their financial concerns. Where Leaders' Meetings are frequently held, the work of the Leaders is done more perfectly. And by a minute examination of the Class Books, in the presence of the Leaders, we learn who are the sick, the careless or the lukewarm; and then, in making pastoral visits, we are prepared to go, 'not only to those who want us, but to those who want us most.' Let us, therefore, see to it that Leaders' Meetings are held regularly, and as often as practicable, not only in the towns in which Ministers reside, but also in the principal country places (1826, vol. vi., p. 168; 1885, p. 360). See p. 698.

2. (1) In our large Societies Leaders' Meetings shall be held at least once a month.

(2) One Meeting a quarter shall be called expressly for devotional purposes and for consideration of the spiritual condition of the Church.

(3) Our existing Rule that Ministers shall examine the Class Books at the Leaders' Meetings, in order to inform themselves as to the state of the Societies and the need of special pastoral attention and discipline, shall be enforced; and the Class Books shall be produced for this purpose when required.

(4) In our smaller Societies and country places

Leaders' Meetings shall be held as frequently as possible (1909, p. 92).

New Leaders

1. The Conference urges the necessity of appointing new Leaders, and especially young Leaders, of both sexes (1891, p. 329).

2. As much depends, under the blessing of God, on the piety, zeal, and devotion, the Scriptural knowledge and Christian temper of our Leaders, and also on their intelligent and hearty approval of the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism, let us, before nominating a new Leader, satisfy ourselves, by previous inquiry and personal examination, as to the character and qualifications of the person proposed.

3. Whenever a new Leader, nominated by us and accepted by the Leaders' Meeting, is first introduced to the Meeting, let us take that opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office. And, in particular, let us urge upon our Leaders the vital importance of seeing or communicating with each of their Members once a week (1885, p. 361).

N.B.—On the question of obtaining new Leaders see the Report of the *Special Committee on Leadership*, 1910, pp. 600-602.

Regular Attendance of Leaders Required

All our Leaders are required regularly to attend their respective Leaders' Meetings (1810, vol. iii., p. 156 ; 1900, p. 488).

Character and Work of Leaders

See p. 68.

Appointment of Junior Society Class Leaders

See pp. 59-61.

Numbers in Society

The Conference directs that, where practicable, the numbers for each Society be read in the Leaders' Meeting immediately before each quarter day (1893, p. 228).

Removal of Members

The Conference directs that, when a Leaders' Meeting is held, inquiry shall be made as to any removals which have taken place (1913, p. 86).

Memorials

1. We cheerfully acknowledge the general right of our highly valued brethren, the Class Leaders, freely and fully to express their views and wishes to the Conference in the way of Memorial, or otherwise, on subjects which seriously and manifestly involve the spiritual interests of the Classes placed under their care, or the religious prosperity of the Society to which they are severally attached.

2. We think, however, that the right thus recognized by us ought to be exercised peaceably and prudently ; on such occasions only as seem to justify or require an extraordinary interference ; with a cautious avoidance of those subjects of Memorial which do not immediately and directly affect that particular portion of our Society to which the Leaders concerned in such interference are individually attached ; and, finally, with a careful abstinence from all such assumptions of authority as neither our Rules, nor the general principles of justice and of religious liberty, will sanction, in reference to

the local regulations and uses of other Societies, Congregations, and Circuits (1828, vol. vi., p. 399). For *Memorials from Members* see 1796, vol. i., p. 366.

Division of Circuit

The Leaders' Meeting of any Society to which a proposed change by alteration, amalgamation, or division in the Circuit of which it forms a part refers . . . shall have the right of appeal to the Conference in its Representative Session, when the resolution of a District Synod with respect to the proposed change is brought before it (1886, p. 273).

The Lord's Supper

The Conference directs Superintendents to bring the subject of attendance at the Lord's Supper before the Leaders' Meetings of the Circuit, in order, if possible, to secure a better observance of this Divine ordinance (1893, p. 228). See pp. 11, 13, 49-51.

Sunday Schools

No person shall be continued as an Officer or Teacher [Sunday School] who shall at any time be declared, by the Local Sunday School Council or the Leaders' Meeting, unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part in the Christian education of the young (1868, vol. xvii., p. 385). See p. 203.

N.B.—1. The Leaders' Meeting, at its Annual Meeting, chooses a proportion of the persons who compose the Committee of a Sunday School which is governed by the Rules of Management recommended for adoption by the Conference in 1868; viz. 'One-third, being Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society.'

See *Rules for the Management of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools*, 1868, vol. xvii., pp. 383-6.

2. For the election of Representatives to the Local Sunday School Council, see p. 222.

Adult Bible Classes and Pleasant Sunday Afternoons for the People

The Conference directs that the Superintendents of Circuits, in conjunction with the Leaders' Meetings and the Sunday School authorities, be directed to encourage the formation of such Classes in all cases when the Work of God may be promoted thereby ; but that in every case care be taken to secure the appointment of a suitable Conductor, who shall be a Member of Society, and be approved by the Leaders' Meeting. With respect to Classes which may be instituted in the future, the Conference directs that where they are not formed under the supervision of the Leaders' Meeting or Local Sunday School Council, a Committee of Management be appointed, consisting of the Ministers of the Circuit with an agreed-upon number of Laymen, half of whom shall be appointed by the Class, and the other half by the Local Sunday School Council and Leaders' Meeting in equal proportions ; and that the appointment of the Conductor of the Class, who shall be a Member of Society and, *ex officio*, a member of the Committee, shall be subject to the approval of the Leaders' Meeting. With respect to Classes already existing, the Conference recommends the adoption, as far as practicable, of the above plan (1895, pp. 257, 258).

Brotherhoods

1. The Brotherhood Meetings ought not to be regarded as separate organizations outside, and distinct

from, the ordinary life of the Missions or Chapels with which they are associated, and on whose premises they are held. They should be treated as part of the great organization whose supreme aim is to 'spread Scriptural holiness throughout the land,' and all the arrangements for them should be in harmony with this purpose. There is already abundant proof that those Brotherhoods in which evangelical teaching is the predominant note, and redemptive service the leading feature, are not only the most useful, but also the most attractive and permanent. If used for any lower purpose early decay may be confidently predicted.

2. The provisions contained in our Trust Deeds, if duly observed by the Superintendent Minister and the Trustees in their several capacities, are a sufficient safeguard that the Meetings and Services held will be in accordance with the General Rules and Usage of the People called Methodists. The Committee consider these Rules adequate, that subject to them it is better this movement should in other respects be unfettered, and that each place should be free to work out its own methods in accordance with the varied needs of the localities concerned.

3. The Committee is of opinion that great forbearance and conciliation may be necessary in certain cases in which there has been some lack of prevision in arrangements already made. The Committee confidently expresses the hope that, as to existing Brotherhoods, there will be no undue or unnecessary exercise of authority in relation to opportunities for usefulness so peculiar and delicate as those presented by this new, and in some respects, untried, movement, but that the experience already gained will be of service in preventing evils in

the establishment of future Brotherhoods. See Report of Home Mission Committee on *Men's Brotherhoods* which was adopted by the Conference (1908, pp. 41, 42).

Army and Navy Work

At the October Leaders' Meeting of the Society connected with the Chapel in which the soldiers and seamen worship, the work in the Army and Navy shall be specially considered ; and the Meeting shall appoint one of its members, or some other suitable person, to assist the Army Minister in visiting the barracks, and generally in seeking to attract our Methodist soldiers and seamen to the services of their own Church, and in winning them to Christ (1890, p. 257).

Miscellaneous

See Regulations concerning :

- (1) The admission and exclusion of Members, pp. 24-26, 33-41, 322-327.
- (2) Appeal to Special Circuit Meeting, pp. 189-93.
- (3) Mixed District Synod, pp. 101-104, 518.

ANNUAL CIRCUIT MEETING OF CLASS-LEADERS

An Annual Meeting of Class Leaders shall be established in every Circuit.

Constitution

The Meeting shall consist of all the Ministers and Preachers on Trial appointed to the Circuit, and all the Class Leaders and Assistant Leaders in the Circuit. All Junior Class Leaders shall be entitled to attend the Meeting, but only those can vote who have reached the age of twenty-one years. The Meeting shall be held

annually at a time to be fixed by the September, or, where desirable, by the June Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting shall also appoint a Circuit Secretary. The Superintendent Minister is authorized to call Special Meetings when necessary.

Business

The following questions shall be considered :

1. During the past twelve months, how many Leaders have ceased to hold office, and how many new Leaders have been appointed ?

2. What is the condition of the Society Classes in this Circuit ?

N.B.—The name of each Leader shall be called, and an answer given to this question. Under this question the following particulars are to be inquired into :

(i) Is there any Class which does not meet, or which meets irregularly ?

(ii) Is there any Class with less than five Members on the Book, or in which there is a very small attendance ?

(iii) Is there anything in the condition of any Class, not given under the above heads, which requires the attention of the Meeting ?

The Meeting is authorized to call the attention of the Leaders' Meetings of the various Societies of the Circuit to any matters raised by the above questions which in its opinion need amendment.

N.B.—While the Meeting has a right to make inquiries into the condition of the Classes in the various Societies, it has no right to interfere with the discipline which is exercised over Leaders in the local Leaders' Meetings (1910, p. 608).

3. Are new Classes required in any of our Societies ? Are there any places where Classes are without Leaders, or in which Classes might be formed were suitable Leaders available ?

4. Can new Classes be formed from the Sunday Schools, Wesley Guilds, Brotherhoods, or Adult Bible Classes ; and are seriously minded persons systematically invited to the Class Meeting ?

5. Can anything be done for the training and equipment of our Leaders (senior and junior), and of any possible or prospective Leaders in the Classes ?

6. Can anything further be done to strengthen the Classes and to advance the Work of God throughout the Circuit ?

N.B.—Under this head there should be earnest and faithful conversation on the duties and privileges of Leadership, and on the responsibilities attaching to this important office. The Meeting should never be allowed to degenerate into a merely business Meeting, but should be regarded as a special means of grace, for the stimulus and encouragement of our Leaders in their pastoral office (1905, p. 93 ; 1907, p. 99 ; 1909, pp. 93, 94 ; 1910, pp. 91, 603-605 ; 1912, pp. 118, 369, 419).

LOCAL PREACHERS

Local Preachers must be Approved

The Superintendent shall regularly meet the Local Preachers once a quarter ; and no person shall receive a plan as a Local Preacher, or be suffered to preach among us as such, without the approval of that Meeting. Or, if in any Circuit a regular Local Preachers' Meeting cannot be held, they shall be proposed and approved at

the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, subject to the Regulations which apply to Local Preachers' Meetings in such matters (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624 ; 1895, p. 434).

Local Preachers from other Methodist Churches

Before a Local Preacher from another branch of the Methodist Church is put on the Circuit Plan he shall satisfy the Superintendent and the Local Preachers' Meeting that he holds our Doctrines, approves our Discipline, and has competent abilities for the work (1898, p. 250).

Class Meeting

All Local Preachers shall meet in Class. No exception shall be made in respect to any who have been Travelling Preachers (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624 ; 1895, p. 436).

The Lord's Supper

1. Local Preachers should consider themselves under special obligation regularly to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (1895, p. 436).

2. In the interest of Probationers and Local Preachers, an occasional administration of the Lord's Supper in connexion with the Quarterly Meeting or the Local Preachers' Meeting would be found helpful (1900, p. 230).

Local Preachers from Abroad

In the case of a Local Preacher returning from a Mission Station where neither a Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting nor a Circuit Quarterly Meeting is duly constituted, the certificate of the District Synod shall be

accepted in the place of the certificate of the Circuit Superintendent (1896, p. 332).

Preaching in other Circuits

Let no Local Preacher be permitted to preach in any other Circuit than his own, without consent of the Superintendent of that Circuit (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624 ; 1901, p. 530). See p. 62.

The Circuit Plan

1. Let no Local Preacher be permitted to preach . . . who is not regularly planned by the Superintendent of the Circuit where he resides (1796, vol. i., p. 361).

2. The Circuit Plan for the Travelling and Local Preachers shall be made by the Superintendent or his Colleagues (1811, vol. iii., p. 221 ; 1895, p. 435).

N.B.—The Trustees of Chapels settled on the Chapel Model Deed hold the Chapel upon trust that they will 'permit and suffer' the following persons, and such persons only, to preach and expound God's Holy Word, and to perform the usual acts of Religious Worship in the Chapel, viz. :

'Such person and persons as shall be from time to time approved, and for that purpose duly appointed, by the said Conference of the said People called Methodists, from time to time held under the orders and regulations of the said in part recited Deed Poll ; and also such other person and persons as shall be thereunto from time to time duly permitted or appointed (according to the General Rules and Usage of the said People called Methodists), by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall, for the time being,

be situated ; and also such other person and persons as shall be thereunto from time to time duly appointed by any authority lawfully constituted by the said Conference, or under or by virtue of these presents, to fill up any vacancy or vacancies, at any time occasioned by the death, removal, or suspension of a Preacher or Preachers, in or during any interval between the sittings of the said Conference, but only until the then next Conference ; and in no case any other person or persons whomsoever.' See *Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 710, 711.

The Sacraments

The Conference directs that no person be permitted to administer the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper but a Travelling Preacher in Full Connexion (1811, vol. iii., p. 221). See p. 49.

Lovefeasts

Let no Local Preacher hold Lovefeasts without the consent of the Superintendent ; or in any wise interfere with his business. Let every one keep in his own place, and attend to the duties of his station (1869, vol. xvii., p. 625).

Suspended or Expelled Ministers

1. No Minister who has been suspended, or expelled, shall, on any account, be employed as a Local Preacher, without the authority of the Conference (1793, vol. i., p. 289 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 625).

2. No Minister excluded for immorality, or who resigns his connexion with the Conference while under charges which affect his moral character, shall at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Local Preacher

without the consent of the Conference previously obtained (1817, vol. iv., p. 344; 1897, p. 243; 1898, p. 250).

Theological Class

See p. 99.

Circuit Quarterly Meeting

Every fully accredited Local Preacher shall be a member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1895, p. 315). See p. 138.

Women Preachers

The Conference is of opinion that the cases in which it is desirable that women should preach among us are exceptional. Where, however, a woman possesses special gifts, and gives evidence of having received a Divine call to the work of preaching, liberty should be given her for the exercise of her gifts. But in all such cases the preaching of women shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. They shall not preach in the Circuit where they reside until they have obtained the approbation of the Superintendent and Quarterly Meeting. In the case of Wesley Deaconesses the permission of the Warden and the Committee of the Wesley Deaconess Institute is equivalent to and shall take the place of that of the Superintendent and Quarterly Meeting.

2. Before they go into any other Circuit to preach, they shall have a written invitation from the Superintendent of that Circuit, and a recommendatory note from the Superintendent of their own Circuit.

N.B.—So far as possible the preaching of women shall

be restricted to neighbourhoods in which there is no special opposition to such preaching (1901, pp. 365, 366).

LOCAL PREACHERS' MEETINGS

Constitution

1. The Ministers and Preachers on Trial who are appointed to the work of the Circuit (1852, vol. xii., p. 121).

2. Supernumerary Ministers have the right to attend and take part in the Local Preachers' Meetings in the Circuits in which they reside (1895, p. 435).

3. The duly accredited Local Preachers who are Members of Society in that Circuit.

N.B.—Local Preachers on Trial are expected to attend the Local Preachers' Meeting, but are not entitled to vote (1895, p. 435 ; 1901, p. 530).

Chairman

1. The Superintendent shall regularly meet the Local Preachers once a quarter (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624).

2. The Superintendent of the Circuit is, *ex officio*, the Chairman of all official Meetings of the Circuit (1901, p. 532).

Minutes of Cases of Discipline

The Conference directs that in all our Circuits separate Minute Books shall be kept for such cases in Local Preachers' Meetings as seriously affect the moral character of Local Preachers ; and that such Minute Books shall be under the care of the Superintendent Minister of the Circuit for the time being, who shall be responsible for their safe custody (1914, p. 430).

ORDER AND FORM OF BUSINESS

N.B.—‘An Order and Form of Business’ was adopted by the Conference in 1894. See *Minutes*, 1894, pp. 457–462. Since then it has been revised, and other Regulations relating to Local Preachers have been passed. The following ‘Form’ contains these revisions and additions.

The Minutes of the previous Meeting shall be read ; and, when approved as a correct record, shall be signed by the Chairman.

Questions

I. *Is there any objection to any Local Preacher, Preacher on Trial, or Exhorter whose name is on the Circuit Plan, such as affects his standing on the Plan ?*

The names of the Local Preachers shall be called over one by one.

The Local Preachers’ Meeting has authority to make the inquiry. Should an objection be formally made against a Local Preacher such as affects his standing on the Plan, the Meeting may proceed to consider it ; and if, in its judgement, the objection is sustained, the Superintendent shall determine and pronounce the sentence ; subject, however, to the right of appeal against the sentence on the part either of the person accused, or of the Local Preachers’ Meeting, to the District Synods and the Conference (1894, p. 457 ; 1899, pp. 240, 508 ; 1901, p. 530).

Any Local Preacher who has been aggrieved in any matter affecting his standing as a Local Preacher by a Superintendent acting in conjunction with an ordinary Local Preachers’ Meeting, shall have a right of appeal to a Local Preachers’ Meeting especially convened to

reconsider the case, and the finding of that Meeting as to matters of fact shall be final. The right to determine the sentence in this, as in all other judicial cases of discipline, is within the exclusive province of the Superintendent, after consultation with his Colleagues; or, if he has no Colleague, after consultation with the Chairman of the District. And against this sentence all parties shall have a right of appeal to the District Synod and the Conference. Any action, however, which may be taken by the Local Preachers' Meeting cannot interfere with the jurisdiction of the Leaders' Meeting, which is the Court charged with the consideration of questions which affect Church membership (1894, pp. 457, 458; 1898, p. 253; 1899, pp. 240, 511; 1901, pp. 530, 531).

For Time Limit of Appeals to the Conference see p. 40.

In the general Question concerning objections the following four particulars are included:

1. *Is there any objection to his moral and religious character?*
2. *Is there any objection on the ground that he does not believe and preach our Doctrines?*
3. *Is there any objection on the ground that he does not duly observe our Discipline?*

All Local Preachers shall meet in Class (1796, vol. i., p. 361; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 624).

Local Preachers shall consider themselves under special obligation regularly to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Every Local Preacher is bound to fulfil the appointments given to him. If, at any time, he should be unable to do so, he himself shall provide a duly

accredited substitute. When, through sudden illness, a Local Preacher cannot either take his appointment or find a supply, he shall communicate at once with the Superintendent (1895, p. 436).

4. *Has he competent abilities for our work?*

This question includes efficiency and general acceptance, as well as physical competence.

II. *Has any Brother died during the Quarter?*

III. *Has any Brother resigned his position as a Local Preacher?*

IV. *Has any Brother whose name is on the Plan removed into another Circuit? If so, to what Circuit has he been accredited?*

V. *Has any duly accredited Local Preacher come to reside in this Circuit?*

Every duly accredited Local Preacher is entitled to be placed, without renewed Trial or Examination, upon the Plan of any Circuit to which he may remove; provided he present his Note of Removal and current Circuit Plan, and shall have become a Member of Society in that Circuit. This, of course, does not apply to Local Preachers on Trial.

The position of a Local Preacher on the Plan of the Circuit to which he may remove shall be decided by the Local Preachers' Meeting concerned (1895, p. 436).

VI. *Is any one now on Trial to be fully received as a Local Preacher?*

Before any Candidate is fully admitted as a Local Preacher, he shall have been twelve months on probation. The Local Preachers' Meeting shall have power to extend the period of probation in individual cases, if such a measure be deemed desirable (1876, vol. xx., p. 156; 1895, p. 437; 1905, p. 92).

No Candidate shall be fully admitted as a Local Preacher until he has read the first four volumes of John Wesley's *Sermons* and his *Notes on the New Testament*, and until he has passed a satisfactory examination in the definitions and Scripture proofs of the leading Doctrines of Christianity as there explained (1876, vol. xx., p. 155 ; 1895, p. 437 ; 1913, p. 356).

N.B.—The Conference, in 1913, referred to the Committee on Methodist Law and other matters the question of the meaning of the phrase 'the first four volumes of John Wesley's Sermons,' and the number of Sermons contained in those volumes. The Committee prepared a Case for Counsel and obtained his opinion thereon. The Conference in 1914 passed the following resolution :

'The Conference places on record that the phrase "the first four volumes of John Wesley's Sermons" is to be interpreted in accordance with Counsel's opinion, viz. : the phrase in the Chapel Model Deed applies to the first four volumes of Wesley's *Sermons*, published in eight volumes in 1787-8 ; and the total number of sermons is forty-four' (1914, p. 373).

For the 'Case' and the 'Opinion of Counsel' see *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 614-26. See also *Summary*, pp. 736-47.

Before the Candidate is examined, he shall give an account of his conversion to God, his present Christian experience, and his call to preach (1895, p. 437).

In the receiving of a person as a fully accredited Local Preacher, or receiving one on Trial, it is, in all cases, the sole right and duty of the Superintendent to nominate the Candidate ; and the approval or rejection rests with the Meeting (1895, p. 437).

It is recommended that, wherever practicable, Local Preachers, after being received on Full Plan, shall be recognized at a Public Religious Service (1895, p. 437).

Every fully accredited Local Preacher shall be a member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1895, p. 315).

VII. *Who are continued on Trial?*

The names of the Brethren on Probation shall be entered in the Minutes of the Meeting, with the number of Quarters that each has been on Trial.

It is desirable that, during his first, second, and third Quarter on Trial every Brother shall be heard by one or more Local Preachers appointed by the Meeting, who shall report as to the Candidates' gifts and preaching ability.

When a Brother has been on Trial three Quarters, arrangements shall be made for his preaching a Trial Sermon in the presence of, at least, three Local Preachers, who shall submit to the next Meeting a written report of his Sermon. The Superintendent or one of his Colleagues shall also hear the Candidate preach, on that or on some other occasion, before his final Examination (1895, p. 437).

VIII. *Who are received on Trial?*

Before any Candidate come upon the Plan on Trial, he shall be examined by the Superintendent, or under his direction, in the *Summary of Christian Doctrine and Bible History*, and, when necessary, in the elements of English Grammar (1874, vol. xix., p. 455 ; 1895, p. 438).

IX. *Does this Meeting recommend that any Brother receive from the Superintendent a Note authorizing him to preach or exhort? And what is the report concerning those Brethren, if any, who have been preaching on Note during the Quarter?*

It is not competent to any Local Preacher to send, or take with him, any one to preach or exhort, without the sanction of the Superintendent.

Before giving a Note, the Superintendent shall converse with the Brother privately in relation to his conversion, his present religious experience, and his knowledge and belief of our Doctrines.

If the Superintendent regards the result of this conversation as satisfactory, he shall give the Brother a Note authorizing him to preach or exhort within the limits of his own Circuit, and in the presence always of an accredited Local Preacher.

He shall preach in the presence of, at least, two Local Preachers—not necessarily of two on the same occasion—who shall report to the Meeting with a view to his being received on Trial.

The Note shall be valid for one Quarter only; but, when necessary, it may be renewed (1895, p. 438).

Superintendents should give special attention to eligible and promising young men with a view to their becoming Local Preachers, and should direct their reading and studies to that end (1874, vol. xix., p. 455; 1895, p. 438).

X. Does this Meeting recommend that the names of any Brethren be placed on the Plan as Exhorters?

The necessities of our work require that suitable persons should be employed in the capacity of Exhorters, such persons having the approbation of the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Local Preachers' Meeting (1876, vol. xx., p. 155; 1895, pp. 435, 438). See p. 97.

XI. Does this Meeting recommend any change in the hours of Service on the Lord's Day?

XII. *Does this Meeting recommend that any new place be put on the Plan?*

In every Circuit let us try to open new places; let us try again places which have not been recently visited; . . . let us not be satisfied till every town, village, and hamlet in our respective neighbourhoods shall be blessed, as far as we can possibly accomplish it, with the means of grace and salvation (1820, vol. v., pp. 147, 148).

XIII. *Does this Meeting recommend that any place now on the Plan be given up?*

Let no place be lightly given up. But, in order to revive and increase small and decaying congregations, especially in villages, let us have recourse to the practice of preaching out of doors, going to those who need us most, and seeking, by all means, to gather into the House of God them that are lost (1820, vol. v., p. 147; 1895, p. 439).

Before any place is taken off the Plan, it is necessary to obtain the sanction of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1895, p. 439). See p. 97.

General

I. *What is the state of the Work of God in this Circuit so far as the work of the Local Preachers has relation thereto?*

II. *How can we so prepare ourselves that, more than hitherto, 'our gospel' shall come unto the people, not in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost?*

III. *Can anything be done to improve our preaching, and render it more successful?*

The Conference recommends that, wherever it is practicable, a Class shall be formed in each Circuit for the purpose of assisting the Local Preachers in their

Theological studies (1876, vol. xx., p. 156; 1895, p. 439).

IV. *Have the Brethren on Trial received information concerning the 'Union for Biblical and Homiletic Study,' and have they been advised to join?*

The names of any willing to join are to be sent to the Lay Secretary of the Connexional Local Preachers' Committee (1912, pp. 92, 93).

Special

March

What is the number of accredited Local Preachers in this Circuit, to be returned, through the District Synod, to the Conference? See 1883, p. 182.

What arrangements can be made for holding open-air Services during the Summer months?

The Conference is of opinion that it is desirable that arrangements for open-air preaching be made in every Circuit, and recommends that, wherever practicable, this be done (1901, p. 108).

September

I. The Superintendent shall give to each Local Preacher a copy of the Annual Address of the Conference to the Wesleyan Methodist Societies.

II. A Secretary for the next year shall be elected.

December

I. The Report of the Treasurer of any Fund held at the disposal of the Local Preachers' Meeting shall be presented.

II. Suggestions relating to Watch-night Services and Covenant Services may be considered.

OTHER REGULATIONS RELATING TO LOCAL PREACHERS**Commercial Failures**

The Conference resolves that a Local Preacher who shall be adjudged a bankrupt, or who shall make a composition with the general body of his creditors, shall thereby be suspended from his office as a Local Preacher, until the Local Preachers' Meeting shall have decided whether the circumstances of the case are such as to justify his continuance on the Plan (1895, p. 314). See pp. 37, 38.

Reading of Local Preachers on Trial

In every Local Preachers' Meeting the Superintendent shall inquire, quarter by quarter, as to the reading of Local Preachers on Trial, and especially as to their reading of Wesley's *Sermons* and *Notes on the New Testament* (1902, p. 359).

Lay Agents in Circuits

1. All Lay Agents employed in our Circuits shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and shall be accredited as such by the Superintendents of the Circuits from which they come.

2. A Lay Agent who is a fully accredited Local Preacher, having presented his Note of Removal and current Circuit Plan to the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he is to work as a Lay Agent, shall have his name placed at the foot of the list of Local Preachers on the Circuit Plan, unless the Local Preachers' Meeting, in exercise of the power given to it by the Conference (see *Minutes*, 1895, p. 436), shall decide to place his name in a higher position. The words 'Hired Local

Preacher,' 'Lay Agent,' or otherwise shall be added to his name on the Plan ; and while employed as a Lay Agent in the Circuit he shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Local Preachers' Meeting.

3. Any Lay Agent desiring to offer himself as a Candidate for the Ministry must be proposed in and approved by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit of which he is a Member, the directions concerning the residential qualification of Candidates for the Ministry being strictly observed. See p. 170.

4. If a Lay Agent is not a Local Preacher his name shall appear on the Circuit Plan, but not among the names of the Preachers. He shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Local Preachers' Meeting in the same manner as Exhorters (see *Minutes*, 1895, pp. 435, 438) are subjected to that jurisdiction by the provisions of our Discipline (1898, p. 360).

Taking Places off the Plan

Before Public Services are finally discontinued in any Chapel held on a Connexional Trust, at least three months' notice of such intention shall be given by the Superintendent Minister to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, and also to the General Secretary of the Home Mission Committee in order that steps may be taken, if thought advisable, to avoid such a necessity (1905, p. 118). See p. 94.

THE DISTRICT LOCAL PREACHERS' COMMITTEE

1. At the September Synod of each District a Local Preachers' Committee shall be appointed, to consist of

the Chairman, the Financial Secretary, four other Ministers, and six Local Preachers. If any Local Preachers be chosen who are not already members of the Synod, they shall by this appointment become members.

2. Each Synod shall have power to associate with the members of the District Local Preachers' Committee other Ministers and Local Preachers interested in the subject, provided always that the Laymen so added shall not thereby become members of the Synod.

3. Each Synod shall appoint a Ministerial and a Lay Secretary of the District Local Preachers' Committee.

4. At the September Local Preachers' Meeting in each Circuit a Circuit Secretary shall be appointed, and his name and address shall be forthwith sent by the Superintendent to the Lay Secretary of the District Local Preachers' Committee.

5. The Superintendent shall also send to the Lay Secretary, quarterly, a Circuit Plan containing the full postal address of each Local Preacher.

6. Immediately after the March Local Preachers' Meeting the Circuit Secretary shall forward, on prepared forms, to the Lay Secretary of the District Local Preachers' Committee the various statistical facts relating to the Local Preachers in that Circuit. The required statistics shall be furnished by the Superintendent to the Circuit Secretary, and the schedule signed by both.

7. The District Local Preachers' Committee shall prepare a Report based upon the statistics so furnished, and relating to the work of the year, to be presented to the May Synod.

8. Immediately after the May Synod the Reports

of the District Local Preachers' Committees shall be sent to the Lay Secretary of the Connexional Committee, which shall report thereon to the Conference.

9. It shall be the duty of the District Local Preachers' Committee to inquire whether the directions of the Conference with regard to the mental and theological culture of Local Preachers have been observed in the various Circuits of the District, and to take necessary steps to assist in carrying out those directions.

10. The District Local Preachers' Committee is empowered to establish and conduct Voluntary District Examinations of Local Preachers in Theology, Biblical Study, and Homiletics.

11. Subject always to the Laws and Usages of Methodism, the District Local Preachers' Committee shall endeavour to promote the interest and efficiency of Local Preachers' Meetings in all practicable ways, by suggesting subjects for discussion, providing deputations to visit such Meetings, and otherwise.

12. Subject to the Laws and Usages of Methodism, the District Local Preachers' Committee may initiate and promote arrangements providing for the ministrations of Local Preachers in Circuits other than their own, especially with a view to the advantage of the neediest and poorest Circuits; and may also undertake arrangements for Special Missions and Services where desired (1895, pp. 311, 312; 1902, pp. 89-91; 1908, pp. 515, 516).

THE CONNEXIONAL LOCAL PREACHERS' COMMITTEE

1. The Connexional Committee shall consider the Reports of the District Local Preachers' Committees

received from the May Synods, and prepare thereon a Report for presentation to the Conference.

2. The Committee shall also furnish a List of Books for guiding the studies of Local Preachers, and prepare a scheme of Voluntary Examinations with the necessary Examination papers.

3. The subject of the Theological reading of Local Preachers shall also be dealt with by this Committee, together with the working out of the scheme of the Committee which reported to the Conference in 1894 on 'A Course of reading for Local Preachers.' See 1894, pp. 462-5.

4. A Lay Treasurer and a Ministerial and Lay Secretary of the Connexional Committee shall be annually appointed by the Conference (1895, p. 313; 1902, pp. 90, 91; 1908, p. 516).

NECESSITOUS LOCAL PREACHERS' FUND

N.B.—A Committee to administer the Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund is appointed annually by the Conference. See pp. 619, 620.

LAY WORKERS' COLLEGE

See pp. 590, 591.

TRUSTEES

N.B.—The Superintendent shall annually revise the names, addresses, and occupations of the Trustees of all our Trust Properties as entered in the Circuit Book (1891, p. 259).

Disciplinary Articles of the Plan of Pacification

1. The appointment of Preachers shall remain solely with the Conference ; and no Trustee, or number of Trustees, shall expel or exclude from their Chapel or Chapels any Preachers so appointed.

2. Nevertheless, if the majority of the Trustees, or the majority of the Stewards and Leaders of any Society, believe that any Preacher appointed for their Circuit is immoral, erroneous in doctrines, deficient in abilities, or that he has broken any of the Rules above mentioned (i.e. the Rules contained in Section I. of 'The Plan of Pacification,' which relate to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Baptism, and Service in Church hours), they shall have authority to summon the Preachers of the District, and all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the Circuit, to meet in their Chapel on a day and hour appointed (sufficient time being given). The Chairman of the District shall be the President of the assembly ; and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, the Chairman possessing also the casting voice. And if the majority of the Meeting judge that the accused Preacher is immoral, erroneous in doctrines, deficient in abilities, or has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, he shall be considered as removed from that Circuit ; and the District Synod shall, as soon as possible, appoint another Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the Preacher so removed ; and shall determine among themselves how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of till the Conference, and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties, till the Conference, if they judge proper. The District Synod shall also supply, as well as possible, the

place of the removed Preacher, till another Preacher be appointed. And the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial. And if the District Synod do not appoint a Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the removed Preacher, within a month after the aforesaid removal, or do not fill up the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned, shall appoint a Preacher for the said Circuit, provided he be a member of the Methodist Connexion, till the ensuing Conference.

3. If any Preacher refuse to submit to the above mode of trial, in any of the cases mentioned above, he shall be considered as suspended till the Conference. And if any Trustees expel from any Chapel a Preacher, by their own separate authority, the Preachers appointed for that Circuit shall not preach in that Chapel till the ensuing Conference, or till a trial take place according to the mode mentioned above.

4. If any Trustees expel or exclude a Preacher, by their own separate authority, from any Chapel in any Circuit, the Chairman of the District shall summon the members of the District Synod, the Trustees of that Circuit who have not offended, and the Stewards and Leaders of the Circuit, and the members of such assembly shall examine into the evidence on both sides; and if the majority of them determine that the state of the Society in which the exclusion took place requires that a new Chapel should be built previous to the meeting of the Conference, every proper step shall be immediately taken for erecting such Chapel. And no step shall on any account be taken to erect a Chapel for such purpose,

before the meeting of the Conference, till such Meeting be summoned, and such determination be made.

5. No Preacher shall be suspended or removed from his Circuit by any District Synod, except he have the privilege of the trial before mentioned (1795, vol. i., pp. 341, 342).

N.B.—1. In explanation of the last clause, it should be noted that, in 1835, in his Judgement in Dr. Warren's Case, Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst said :

‘ No District Committee has the power of giving the Preacher the benefit of the trial before mentioned. There is no authority for that purpose ; they have no power to convene this mixed tribunal ; there are no regulations authorizing them to do so ; and if it was meant that the District Committee should have had such a power, there is no doubt, I apprehend, it would have been distinctly provided for. . . . It does appear to me, therefore, that the case is very strong and very clear with respect to the power of the District Committee ; and that the District Committee still, notwithstanding the Act of Pacification, have a right, have authority, to suspend or to remove a Preacher in all cases, except in those particular cases mentioned in the Act of Pacification, where the Trustees and other parties therein mentioned choose to interfere. I think in all other cases they have authority to suspend or to remove.’ See extract from Lord Lyndhurst's Judgement, *Minutes*, 1850, vol. xi., pp. 479, 480.

2. In the Chapel Model Deed the Disciplinary Articles of the Plan of Pacification, with certain alterations, appear among the provisory clauses.

(1) It is provided that the meeting of the Mixed Synod, as it has been called, shall be held, unless the

question of the accused Preacher's immorality, erroneousness in doctrine, or deficiency in ability, 'shall have been previously inquired into and disposed of, by the Preachers for the time being appointed by the said Conference to the Circuits of the District in which the said Chapel or Place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Trustees for the time being, and also to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Society Stewards and Leaders of Classes, for the time being, as aforesaid.'

(2) It is, also, provided that at least fourteen days' notice in writing of the Meeting of the Mixed Synod shall be 'personally served upon the said Preachers, Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, or left for, or sent by the post to him and them respectively, at his or their most usual place or places of abode or business.'

(3) The provisions of the Chapel Model Deed concerning the holding of the Mixed Synod should be compared with the Disciplinary Articles of the Plan of Pacification. See pp. 711-13.

The Chapel Model Deed

N.B.—1. Forms of Model Deeds for the Settlement of Chapels appear in the *Large Minutes* published in 1763, 1770, 1772, 1780, and 1789. After Wesley's death a form of 'Model Deed' was included in the 'Code of Laws' issued by the Conference in 1797. After that date other 'forms' were recommended by the Conference.

2. The necessity for a more efficient mode than any which had been adopted for the settlement of the numerous Chapels in the Methodist Connexion having been long very generally felt and admitted, and a Plan having

been proposed with a view to obviate, for the future, the inconvenience, expense, and insecurity to which Trustees of Chapels and the Connexion at large had in many instances been exposed, the Conference, held at Sheffield in the year 1829, appointed a Committee to inquire into the eligibility of such Plan, with power, if they thought fit, to take such measures as might facilitate its execution.

This Committee met in London shortly after its appointment. That they might tread on sure ground, and be perfectly satisfied of the legal security of the proposed Plan, the Committee directed a Case to be prepared, and laid separately before four of the most eminent Counsel in London. All opinions being favourable, the Committee forthwith directed Counsel to prepare the Draft of a Deed which might serve as a Model to be referred to by subsequent Deeds. This draft, together with the Case, and all the Opinions, was submitted to the Conference held in Leeds in 1830. The Conference unanimously adopted the Plan, and reappointed the Committee with power to complete and carry it into execution. The Draft having been settled by Counsel, the Committee adopted it. The Conference in 1832 unanimously confirmed the proceedings of the Committee, and resolved that 'the general adoption of the Plan be strongly recommended to the Connexion at large.' See *The Model Deed*, published at the Wesleyan Conference Office; also *Appendix VI.*, pp. 710-35. The *Chapel Model Deed* is dated the third day of July, 1832. It was enrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery on the twenty-fifth day of July, 1832.

3. Chapels settled on this Plan are so settled by 'reference' to the Model Deed. It is, therefore, neces-

sary that a printed Copy of the Model Deed should be kept by the Trustees of such Chapels with their Trust Deed and other Documents of Title.

4. A pamphlet containing full information respecting the Settlement of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property may be had at the offices of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, Oldham Street, Manchester.

Relation of Provisions of Trust Deeds to the Rules and Usages of Methodism

N.B.—The Vice-Chancellor, Sir Lancelot Shadwell, in his Judgement in Dr. Warren's Chancery Suit, in 1835, commented upon the relation of the Trusts of a Chapel Deed to the Rules and Usages of Methodism. He said:

‘ It is to be observed that the Deeds of Trust are not, according to my humble apprehension, to be construed merely with regard to the words that may happen to be contained in the Deeds themselves, but must be construed and looked at as part and parcel of the whole machinery by which the great Body of Wesleyan Methodists . . . is kept together, and by which Methodism itself is carried on. I think that I should take a very narrow view of the case if I contented myself with merely looking at the words of the Trust Deed, and not going further, and considering whether, from the very nature of the transaction and matters connected with it, some circumstances extrinsic of the Deed must not be taken into consideration. . . .

‘ I must consider that it never was intended that this Instrument [the Trust Deed] was to be construed, separate and apart, as if this Chapel stood alone. I must consider that it never was intended by the parties who have continued to belong to the Methodist Society

in succession, since the time when it had its origin, that there should be anything else but one general object pursued, unless indeed there might be any particular bye-laws, or rules and regulations, of a local kind ; but that it was the object and intent of all parties concerned to form one Body, to be governed by one set of laws. Although it may be perfectly true, to a certain extent, that the persons appointed Trustees under the Deed of 1781 might consider themselves called upon to execute their trust with regard to a certain then-existing set of laws, it appears to me that if, in the progress of time, the persons who were Trustees for the time being, as successors to the first Trustees under the Deed of 1781, received into their Chapel a person appointed by the Yearly Conference to preach, they must take that person into their Chapel, and deal with him, not merely on what is the general expression of the obligations of the Trust Deed, but according to all the Rules from time to time enacted by the Conference, which, it is admitted on all hands, has been the supreme legislative and executive Body since the death of Mr. Wesley.'

Compendium of Regulations

N.B.—The Chapel Committee has published a *Compendium of Regulations of the Conference respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property*, which should be in the possession of Superintendent Ministers and Trustees.

Deeds

1. All Sites acquired for new Chapels shall be settled upon the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, sanctioned by the Conference in 1832 ; and Sites acquired for new Schools—both Sunday and Day Schools—shall also be

settled upon the same Model Deed. For Sunday Schools see p. 194.

N.B.—Owing to the great changes which have taken place in the educational system of the country, the Chapel Committee strongly deprecates the settlement of any newly acquired property on either of the School Model Deeds, and recommends the settlement under the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed.

2. Superintendent Ministers shall take immediate steps to secure the due settlement of Chapels and Schools already built, if not yet legally settled.

3. Appointment of new Trustees shall be duly made, as prescribed by the respective Trust Deeds.

N.B.—(1) All Deeds creating Charitable Trusts not exempt under sec. 7 (ii) of the Mortmain and Charitable Uses Act, 1888, must be executed by the conveying parties in the presence of two witnesses, and be enrolled in the Central Office of the Supreme Court of Judicature within six months after the land has been conveyed. Additional land acquired for the same objects must be settled on the same Trusts, and the Deeds are subject to the same regulations respecting attestation and enrolment.

(2) No alteration of existing Trusts can be made, except by the Charity Commissioners or the Court of Chancery (1866, vol. xvi., pp. 567, 568). See *Compendium of Regulations respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property*, p. 12.

Enrolment of Deeds

The Conference considering that, under the provisions of an Act of Parliament recently passed, it is not now legally necessary, in some cases, to enrol a Deed or other

Instrument declaring the Trusts of land acquired for a charitable use, and having regard to the inconveniences which may arise should any such Instrument be lost, and insufficient evidence of its provisions be available, directs that the consent of the Chapel Committee to any erection, purchase, or enlargement, involving the acquisition of land, shall only be given on receiving an engagement from the Superintendent and at least three of the Trustees, either that the Instrument declaring Trusts shall be enrolled within six months of the date of its execution, or that it shall be sent to be sufficiently registered by the Chapel Committee; and the Committee is directed to make arrangements whereby such registration may be secured (1868, vol. xvii., p. 366).

Trustees' Appointment Acts

1. The Conference directs the Chapel Committee to make and preserve in the offices of the Committee correct copies of all Memoranda of Choice and Appointment of new Trustees executed under the provisions of the Trustees' Appointment Acts. Superintendents of Circuits are directed to send to the Chapel Committee all Instruments affecting the Appointment of new Trustees and the vesting of Trust Property thereupon, in order that records of the same may be preserved.

2. The Conference further directs that Drafts of Deeds renewing Trusts and of Memoranda of Choice and Appointment should be sent to the Secretary of the Chapel Committee for examination and approval (1891, p. 259).

Custody of Deeds

1. Suitable provision shall be made in every Circuit for the safe custody of Trust Deeds, and a proper record

of them entered in a Book, to be preserved by the Superintendent Minister (1866, vol. xvi., p. 568).

2. The Conference recommends that a fire-proof Safe shall be provided in each Circuit, and that all Deeds relating to Trust Property shall be carefully preserved therein.

3. The Conference directs that a Register of all Deeds and Documents relating to Trust Properties in the Circuit shall be preserved in a Book, and that the Deeds and Documents shall be compared with this Register annually by the Superintendent Minister and the Circuit Chapel Secretary, or by some other person to be appointed by the Annual United Trustees' Meeting for the purpose (1891, p. 259).

Trustees' Appointment Act

The Conference directs the Chapel Committee to take such steps as it may think necessary to acquaint Wesleyan Methodist Trustees generally with the nature and bearing of the provisions of the 'Trustees' Appointment Act'; and to assist Trustees by such advice and help as the Committee may think desirable to secure the largest possible benefits from the new legislation. . . . The Conference has received with satisfaction the assurance of the Chapel Committee that the new legislation will result in great benefit to our Trusts throughout the country (1890, p. 235). See also p 112.

N.B.—A pamphlet has been issued by the Chapel Committee, entitled *Forms of Conveyance for Settlement in Trust of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property, &c. Also Directions for Appointment of New Trustees*. This pamphlet may be obtained from the offices of the Wesleyan Chapel Committee, Oldham Street, Manchester.

It should be in the possession of all persons who are interested in the management of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property.

Subscriptions to the Chapel Fund

In view of the great saving of cost to Trustees resulting from the provisions of the Trustees' Appointment Act, 1890, and of the additional expense for administration brought upon the Chapel Fund in consequence, the Conference urges all Trustees of our Chapels to subscribe annually to the Fund, and suggests that inquiry should be made whether in some cases existing Annual Subscriptions might not be increased. The Conference expresses its judgement that the Committee cannot justly be expected to assist with oversight and advice non-subscribing Trusts, or Trusts whose subscriptions are unworthy of their resources (1895, p. 250).

Forms

N.B.—The Chapel Committee has prepared the following Forms for the Settlement in Trust of Property acquired for Wesleyan Methodist Trust purposes; for the Appointment of New Trustees, and the due Vesting in them of the Trust Property:—

1. Form of Conveyance of Freehold Ground for the purposes of a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, &c., with Declaration of Trusts by reference to the Chapel Model Deed. *This Form should also be used for Schools.*

2. Forms of Conveyance of Freehold Ground for the purposes of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers' Dwelling-houses, containing suitable Declarations of Trusts.

3. Form of Agreement for Mission Chapels, defining the purposes for which the property is rented.

4. Directions for the Appointment of New Trustees under the provisions of the Model Deed for Wesleyan Methodist Chapels, and for Vesting the Trust Property thereupon.

These Directions include Form of Resolution appointing New Trustees, Form of Resignation and Form of Memorandum of Choice and Appointment in accordance with the Trustees' Appointment Acts, 1850 to 1890.

5. Form of Deed reciting the Appointment of New Trustees under the provisions of the Model Deed for Wesleyan Methodist Chapels and Conveyance of the Trust Property. (N.B.—Where the Memorandum of Choice and Appointment is duly executed this Deed is unnecessary.)

6. Form of Deed appointing New Trustees under section 10 of the Trustee Act of 1893, in cases where it is impossible to secure an Appointment at a Meeting.

7. Form of Appointment of New Trustees under section 10 of the Trustee Act, 1893, in harmony with the provisions of the Trustees' Appointment Act, 1890, applicable to Wesleyan Chapels not settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed.

8. Form of Appointment of New Trustees of Wesleyan Methodist Chapels under the power of appointment contained in the Foundation Deed, where such power does not require the Appointment to be made at a Meeting.

9. Form of Deed effectuating the Retirement of a Trustee under Section 11 of the Trustee Act, 1893, and Vesting Declaration under Section 12 (2) of that Act.

10. The Committee has also prepared other Forms applicable under certain circumstances not provided for above.

11. *Trust Property in Scotland*.—The Committee has further secured the preparation of suitable Forms adapted for use in Scotland, for the Legal Settlement of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property, for the Appointment of New Trustees, and for the Vesting of the Trust Property (1887, pp. 359, 360).

12. *Trust Property in the Isle of Man*.—An Act has been passed by the House of Keys the effect of which is to place all our property in the Isle of Man on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, with the exception of the Peel School. The Act further provides for the renewal of Trusts on the lines of the Trustees' Appointment Acts 1850–1890.

Legal Proceedings

1. No lawsuit relating to Chapels, Schools, or other Trust Property shall be commenced without the consent of the Chapel Committee, except by the direction of the Conference. And, unless such consent or direction be first obtained, the parties proceeding shall be alone responsible for all expenses incurred by such lawsuit (1866, vol. xvi., p. 569).

2. No application shall be made to the Charity Commissioners by any of our Ministers or Trustees for any Order affecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property without having first obtained the advice of the Chapel Committee thereupon ; and the Conference directs that all Drafts of proposed Orders of the Charity Commissioners shall be submitted to the Chapel Committee for approval before they are accepted by the Trustees. The Conference empowers the President for the time being to affix his signature to any petition or application to the Charity Commissioners for the exercise of their powers

in all cases in which such signature may be necessary, provided that the application be first certified and recommended to him by the Chapel Committee (1886, pp. 224, 225).

Erections, Enlargements, and Purchases

See *Compendium of Regulations of the Conference respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property* (1866, vol. xvi., pp. 562-71). See also the edition of the *Compendium* issued by the Chapel Committee in 1901, pp. 8-11. See *Summary*, pp. 478-82.

Sites for New Chapels

N.B.—Considerable misapprehension appears to exist as to the rules affecting purchase of land for Chapels in new localities. The Conference has expressly determined that the regulations as to Erections shall not apply to the purchase of Sites when by such purchase no debt is brought upon any existing Trust Estate. It is, therefore, quite open to any number of responsible and willing persons, acting in harmony with the Superintendent of the Circuit, to purchase Sites in new neighbourhoods, and to borrow on their personal security any part or even the whole of the purchase money. Such acquisitions should at once be conveyed to the purchasers as Trustees, subject to the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed. A small annual contribution from each of the Trustees or their friends will suffice in most cases to meet the annual interest on the money borrowed until the Site is required for the new buildings. Considering the rapidity with which large towns are developing, the impossibility of getting Sites at all unless they are

secured in advance, and the energy shown by other purchasers—sometimes for evil purposes—it is most desirable that a Church which expects to live and grow should be wide awake on this subject.

In purchasing new Sites it is most important to secure sufficient land. In villages land is cheap enough, in growing towns the value is almost certain to increase. Cases are frequently brought under the notice of the Committee in which our work is hopelessly crippled because the Site is not large enough. In many populous districts we are doomed to operations on a limited and insufficient scale in all time to come, or else to undertake a very large expenditure for new premises. All this might have been prevented by a little forethought and courage a few years ago. Even if not needed for subsequent enlargements, vacant land around Chapels and Schools, securing air and light, is of vast importance for Congregations and Scholars (*Compendium of Regulations*, 1901, pp. 23, 24).

Grants and Loans from Chapel Committee

See *Compendium* (1866, vol. xvi., pp. 569-71). See also the edition of the *Compendium* issued in 1901, pp. 17-20. See *Summary*, pp. 475-78.

N.B.—The Chapel Committee has resolved that no aid shall be afforded from the Chapel Fund to any Chapel the outside walls of which do not contain throughout the thickness of fourteen inches of brick or stone work ; and that where cavity walls are adopted the outside walls must be nine inches thick, and the inside walls four and a half inches additional thickness. See *Compendium*, 1901, p. 20.

Loans towards Cost of Chapel Enlargements, Alterations, and Renovations

N.B.—The Chapel Committee is authorized to appropriate such portion of the Loans' Erection Fund as it may deem prudent in the advance of Loans without interest to assist in defraying the cost of Chapel Enlargements, Alterations, and Renovations that have been duly sanctioned by the Committee, but subject to existing Rules as to terms and period of repayment.

Loans to Ministers' Houses

1. A sum not exceeding £4,000 of the Loan Fund raised in 1853 may be appropriated at the discretion of the Committee, as a Fund for Loans without interest towards Ministers' Houses.

2. Aid by Loan shall be given only towards Houses erected or purchased with the sanction of the Chapel Committee, and legally settled in Trust to the satisfaction of the Committee.

3. Assistance shall be confined to cases in which satisfactory evidence is adduced that the acquisition of a Minister's House is desirable in the interests of the Circuit.

4. The amount to be advanced as a Loan shall in no case exceed one-half of the debt sanctioned by the Chapel Committee, and a sum equal to the Loan shall be raised by the applicants, and paid for the reduction of the debt.

5. All Loans shall be repaid by equal half-yearly instalments; such repayments to extend over a period to be agreed upon, but never exceeding ten years. The whole amount remaining unpaid to be immediately re-

coverable in default of the due payment of any instalment.

6. Satisfactory security shall be given for the due repayment of the Loans, and for the fulfilment of the conditions which the Committee may require.

7. Applicants shall engage to subscribe annually to the Chapel Fund, and to charge a rent sufficient to secure the repayment of the Committee's Loan, in addition to all other charges against the property (1884, p. 232).

8. The Conference authorizes the Chapel Committee, out of the funds which may be at its disposal for Loans on interest, to advance, in such cases as it deems expedient, a Loan on Ministers' Houses at $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of two-thirds of the cost, the balance being previously raised ; on the condition that, in addition to the interest, a sum shall be repaid half-yearly to the Committee sufficient to extinguish the Loan in twenty years. It is calculated that payments at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum on the amount borrowed would cover both principal and interest. The Committee shall determine the form which the security shall take.

In the event of any default in the half-yearly payments, the Committee is empowered to recall the Loan.

In the judgement of the Conference, it would not be wise to advance Loans to Ministers' Houses under this Scheme exceeding £20,000 in all (1902, pp. 30, 31).

Registration of Chapels as Places of Public Worship

The Conference directs, in the case of all Chapels to be erected in future, that, previously to their being opened, they shall be regularly registered as Places of Public Worship ; and that the Certificate of such legal

registration shall be publicly read at the first Opening Service (1845, vol. x., p. 227).

Contributions from Sunday Schools

The Superintendents of Circuits, and Chairmen of Districts, are required, before they sanction any application for the relief of distressed Chapels, to inquire whether the said Chapels, or any part of the Trust Premises, be occupied as a Sunday School; and, if so, whether a fair and reasonable rent be paid to the Trustees in consideration of such occupation (1826, vol. vi., p. 160).

Returns of Accommodation

As soon as possible after each National Census complete Returns must be obtained as to the accommodation provided in all Wesleyan Methodist Chapels and Preaching Places in Great Britain, suitable Forms for the purpose being provided by the Chapel Committee (*Journal*, 1873; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 515).

Organs

Every application for permission to introduce an Organ into a Chapel shall be made, on the Schedule provided for the purpose, to the District Synod, or District Home Mission and Chapel Committee; and, if it obtain their approval, shall then be submitted to the Chapel Committee. The entire cost of an Organ shall be defrayed at or before the opening (1866, vol. xvi., p. 566).

N.B.—In 1913 a Connexional Organ Committee was appointed to act in conjunction with the General Chapel Committee. Its purpose is to give advice and

offer practical suggestions in cases where it is proposed to introduce an Organ. Its counsel may be sought on all matters respecting Organs and Choirs, such as specifications, outlay, structural requirements, costs, etc.

Trustees' Meetings for Special and Ordinary Business

N.B.—These Meetings must be convened and conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Chapel Model Deed. It is essential that the notices convening these Meetings should be given as directed in the Deed. See pp. 721, 722.

Examination and Audit of Accounts

1. Suitable Cash and Minute Books shall be provided by the Trustees of each Chapel or other Trust Property ; and a Meeting shall be held, once in every year, at which the annual accounts of the Trust shall be audited. Minutes of Trustees' Meetings shall be taken and preserved.

2. Superintendents are required to examine, once a year, the accounts of each Trust within their respective Circuits. Chairmen of Districts shall institute particular inquiry, in the May District Synods, as to the observance of this direction (1866, vol. xvi., p. 568).

N.B.—In the case of Chapels settled on the Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, the inspection of Books and the audit of Accounts are determined by the clauses relating to these matters. See pp. 719-21.

Annual United Trustees' Meeting

See pp. 187, 335.

N.B.—Attention should be paid to the timely renewal of Trusts, and the careful filling up of the column pro-

vided in the Circuit Schedule for the purpose of showing what is the *minimum* number of Trustees, when the Trust should be renewed (1860, vol. xiv., p. 551). See p. 731.

Anniversaries

1. It is earnestly recommended to the Preachers and Trustees to adopt the practice of Anniversary Sermons and Collections, in aid of those Chapels whose regular income cannot otherwise be made equal to their expenditure (1819, vol. v., p. 53).

2. No application for Relief shall be recommended by a District Synod unless the Trustees make Anniversary Collections in aid of their Funds, or show sufficient cause to the contrary (1866, vol. xvi., p. 570).

Collections in Chapels

N.B.—The rents, profits, and income arising in any way from the Trust Premises are to be received by the Trustees, and appropriated in accordance with the terms of their Deed; 'excepting moneys which shall from time to time arise from Collections, or Subscriptions, duly made therein, according to the General Rules of the said People called Methodists, for other purposes than for the immediate purposes of the said Trust Estate.' See *The Chapel Model Deed*, p. 716.

Contributions to Circuit Funds

See pp. 145, 146, 717, 718.

Insurance

1. The duty of insuring Trust Property is strongly urged upon all our Trustees (1866, vol. xvi., p. 568).

2. The Conference is glad to learn that a Limited Liability Company has been formed for the Insurance of Connexional Trust Property, the profits of which are to be applied, first, to the increase of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund; and, secondly, for the benefit of the Chapel Trusts insuring with the Company.

The Conference again commends the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Assurance Company to the hearty support of the Ministers and Trustees of the Connexion, and hopes that the generous scheme will be very successful (1872, vol. xviii., p. 649).

3. The Conference resolves that it be an instruction to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee to see year by year that the Trust Properties are fully insured and report to the Synod; and that a Report be presented to the Quarterly Meeting once every year as to the amount for which the several Trust Properties in the Circuit are insured (1906, p. 109).

N.B.—The General Chapel Committee, in consultation with the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Assurance Company, has drawn up a Model Insurance Policy, a copy of which may be obtained from the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Assurance Company, 38 Fountain Street, Manchester (1910, p. 29).

Safety of Chapels in Case of Fire

In all cases the provision for exit [from our Chapels] should be such as would satisfy the Local Authorities that have jurisdiction over Places of Assembly other than those registered for Public Worship. All doors in aisles and corridors should be made to open outwards; the pews should be without doors; large Chapels should

have provision for exit at both ends, and separate and additional provision for exit should be made where there are galleries (1892, p. 248).

Mortgages

The Conference confirms the Minute made in 1830, viz. 'That no loans of money should be raised by the Trustees of any of our Chapels on mortgage of their Trust premises, unless the sum borrowed be equal to the entire debt remaining thereupon'; and further most earnestly advises, that no such loan *on mortgage* shall be taken up at all, except in extreme cases; nor then without consulting with the Chapel Committee (1834, vol. vii., p. 405). See pp. 715, 716.

Annuities

1. Trustees are advised not to grant Annuities, except on very easy terms; and consultation with the Chapel Committee is recommended (1866, vol. xvi., p. 568).

2. In the case of money given on Annuity, the value of the Annuity shall be estimated as a debt, or deduction, equal to the sum for which a Government Annuity of the same amount, for a person of the same age, may be purchased (1866, vol. xvi., p. 565).

Army Capitation Payments

Claims having been made by the Trustees of several of our Chapels for payment for seats occupied by British troops, application was made to the War Office on this account, it being considered that these payments constitute a fair charge on the Authorities, who require the men to be marched to our Chapels; and Her

Majesty's Government having been pleased, in meeting this claim, to offer the fullest recognition of Methodism in the Army by granting Capitation Allowances for Wesleyan soldiers, such as are now received from the Admiralty in various Circuits on behalf of Wesleyans in the Royal Navy, the Conference resolves to accept this offer, being convinced that there is no principle involved which makes this action inexpedient ; and instructs the Committees concerned to take such steps in relation to the Grants that may be made as will secure fair remuneration to Trustees for pews allotted to Wesleyan soldiers in our Chapels, and, at the same time, the utmost efficiency of our work in the Army (1881, p. 239).

**Use of Trust Properties for Amusements, Political Purposes,
and by Friendly Societies**

See pp. 56-59.

Sales

1. Every application for the permission of Conference for the Sale of a Chapel or other Trust Property, shall be approved by the District Synod or District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, and by the Chapel Committee, who shall report to the Conference.

2. If the Sale of a Chapel or other Trust Property should be deemed expedient in the interval between one Conference and another, the President for the time being is authorized, on behalf of the Conference, to affix his signature to the document giving permission to sell provided that each case be first certified to him as approved by the Chapel Committee.

3. All Sales of Trust Property, which shall be duly sanctioned, shall be entered in the Journal of the Conference (1866, vol. xvi., p. 569).

4. The Conference resolves that it be a direction to the Chapel Committee that, in all cases of the proposed Sale of any old Chapel, the Chapel Committee shall recommend to the Trustees—

- (1) The removal of all inscriptions on the premises previous to Sale.
- (2) The importance of taking all possible means to secure the premises against being used for the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors, or as a theatre or dancing or music hall (1906, p. 106).

Village Chapels

Before consent is given to the Sale of any Village Chapel not to be superseded by a new erection, the opinion of the Home Mission Committee shall be obtained as to the desirability of retaining the property (1888, p. 234).

Discontinuance of Public Services

See pp. 94, 97.

Old Chapels in Large Towns with Decreasing Congregations

1. The Conference approves the recommendations of the Committee as to the means whereby Chapels, now partially or almost entirely deserted, may become successful Mission Chapels.

2. The Conference authorizes the issue of the recommendations of the Committee for the practical consideration of Ministers and Trustees of Chapels where the congregations, though large, are decreasing year by year.

3. The Conference does not propose that all Chapels with declining congregations shall be worked as Mission Chapels, but directs that suitable means should be em-

played in every case to prevent further decay and secure recovery (1886, pp. 275, 276).

N.B.—For Abstract of the Report of the Committee, see *Minutes*, 1887, p. 361. See also p. 164.

Superintendents to Report Irregular Cases

1. When a Superintendent, on entering a Circuit, shall find the building or enlargement of a Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house commenced, or about to be commenced, without the consent of the Chapel Committee, he shall forthwith give to them all the information in his power respecting it (1866, vol. xvi., p. 566).

2. The Conference directs the Chapel Committee to send the particulars of all Irregular Chapel Cases to the several District Synods, so that inquiry may be made from time to time, until it shall appear that the conditions of erection or enlargement have been complied with. The Conference further directs the Chapel Committee to call the special attention of the District Synods to those cases in which the proportion of debt is excessively heavy, or the proceedings wholly irregular, that the judgement of the District Synods in these cases may be communicated to the Trustees through the Superintendents (1890, p. 234).

Communication with Chapel Committee

The Chapel Committee has a claim on the Superintendent for all necessary information respecting Chapel Affairs within his Circuit; and, the functions of the Chapel Committee being administrative not disciplinary, it is at liberty to receive and reply to all legitimate communications, while, as the general rule, its official correspondence and action should be carried on through

the duly constituted Circuit authorities (*Journal*, 1868; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 514).

Trial and Exclusion of Trustees of Chapels from Membership

See pp. 39, 40.

N.B.—The exclusion of a Trustee of a Chapel from Membership in the Society does not affect his legal position as a Trustee. That position is defined by the Trust Deed. The Chapel Model Deed contains an important clause relating to Trustees who withdraw or are duly excluded from the Society. See pp. 728-30.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting

See pp. 138, 139.

N.B.—When the Trustee of a Chapel withdraws or is duly excluded from the Society he is no longer a member of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

TRUSTEES OF DAY SCHOOLS

Legal Settlement of Day Schools

N.B.—All Wesleyan Methodist Schoolrooms or Houses shall be held in Trust for the Connexion, in a manner similar to the settlement of Chapel Property, and in accordance with the trusts declared in each Trust Deed. New land or property acquired for School Purposes, whether Day or Sunday Schools, should be settled upon the trusts of the Chapel Model Deed. See p. 108.

New Schools

All who are contemplating the erection or alteration of premises for the establishment of new Schools shall communicate with the Education Committee, for the

purpose of receiving counsel as to their projected undertakings, and the adaptation of the premises to the system of instruction designed to be adopted (1890, p. 278).

Closing of Day Schools

See pp. 234, 235.

Transfer of Schools

1. In view of the interpretation which is put upon Section XXIII. of the Elementary Education Act by the Lords of the Committee of Council, to the effect that any transfer of a School, settled upon our School Model Deed No. I., to a School Board, for any term whatever, for the purposes of such School Board, must be sanctioned not only by the signatures of the Trustees, but by the Conference, testified by the President in writing, the Conference directs that in every case in which the transfer of such a School is proposed, the Superintendent, with the Managers and Trustees acting in concert, shall first consult the Education Committee on the subject ; and that if, for reasons given, that Committee recommends such a Transfer, the Rules of the Conference in relation to the Sale of Trust Property shall be applicable thereto ; the Education Committee considering all questions affecting School Management, and the Chapel Committee questions affecting Trust Property.

2. In respect to Schools settled on the School Model Deed No. II., or on any other Deed in which the consent of the Conference is rendered necessary for the alienation of the Property, the Conference recommends the Trustees to act upon the same principles as those laid down in the foregoing clause in relation to Schools settled on the School Model Deed No. I.

3. In all cases of transfer which may hereafter occur the Conference recommends that provision be made in the Instrument of Transfer to secure the resumption of the premises by the Trustees, without their being required to reimburse any money laid out upon them by the School Board solely for its own purposes (1878, p. 241).

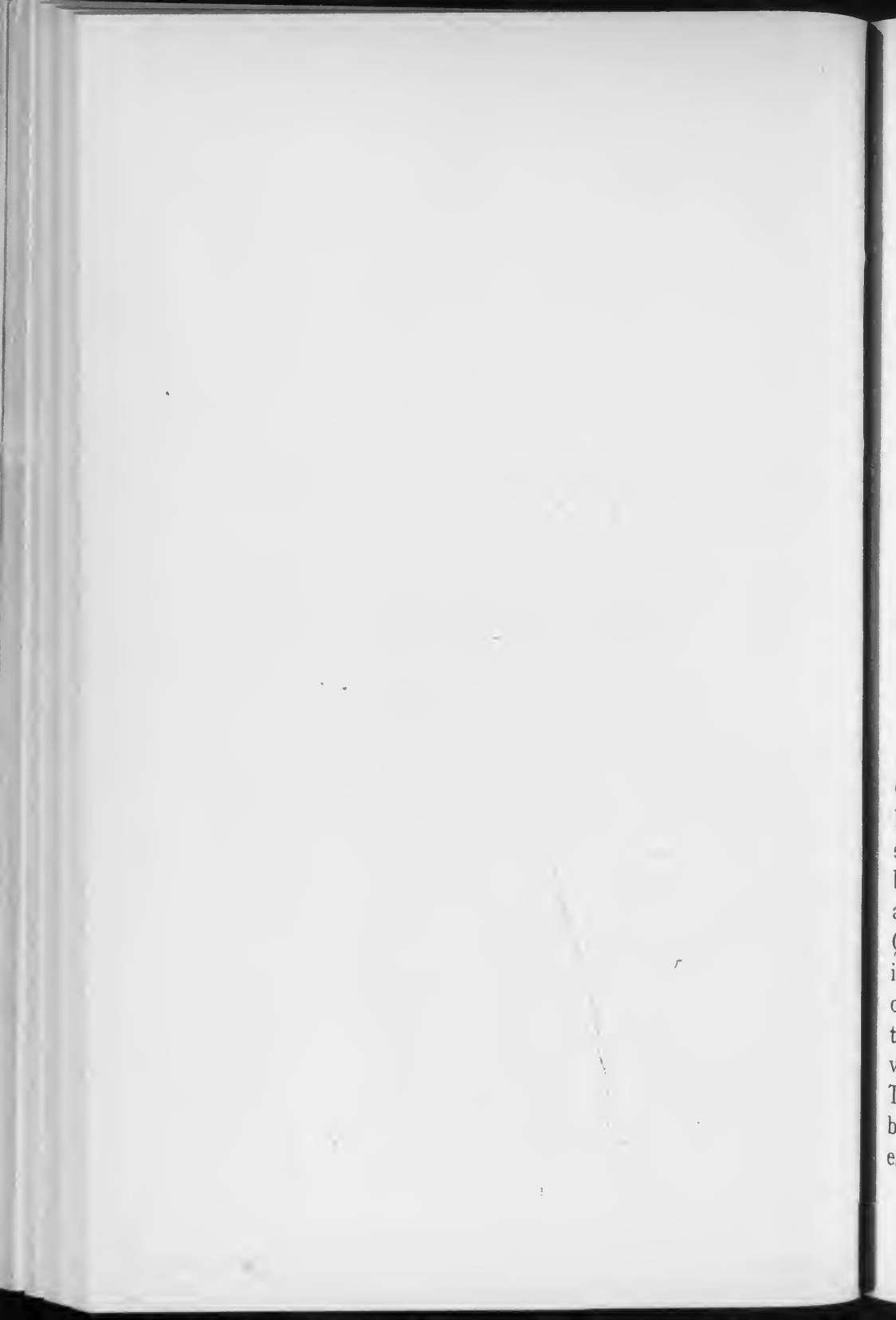
For Regulations relating to the Management of Day Schools see pp. 230-32.

The Trustees for Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Purposes (Registered)

See Chapel Committee's *Compendium of Regulations*, 1901, pp. 51-4.

N.B.—With a view to the extension of the usefulness of the Board of Trustees for Chapel Purposes, a Deed, extending the objects and powers of the Deed of October 4, 1866, by which the Board of Trustees was originally constituted, was executed on October 7, 1910. The Board has since, in accordance with the provisions of this Deed, been incorporated by the Board of Charity Commissioners under the name of 'The Trustees for Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Purposes (Registered)'; the Certificate of Incorporation being dated July 4, 1911. The Board of Trustees is now authorized to hold real, leasehold, or personal estate given, devised, or bequeathed, or legally assured or transferred to them upon or for any trusts or purposes connected with the Church or Society of Methodists associated with the Wesleyan Conference or any of its Synods, Circuits, Missions, or other Connexional or local organizations, whether immediately connected with Chapels or not. Application should be made to the Rev. John Hornabrook, Wesleyan Chapel Committee, Oldham Street, Manchester.

THE CIRCUIT



I. RELATING TO CIRCUITS

First Mentioned

Q. How are your Circuits now divided? *A.* Into seven (1746, vol. i., p. 33).

Division

For Regulations relating to Division of Circuits see pp. 174-77.

Boundaries

Whereas difficulties have arisen from the want of accurate and recorded definitions of the boundaries of Circuits, the Conference directs that, in future, the boundaries of Circuits which are divided shall be fully stated in the Minutes of the District Synod to which they belong, and that the Secretary of the District shall send a copy of the record to be inserted in the Minutes of the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits concerned ; and that in such cases copies of the Ordnance Maps, or some other Maps, of the localities concerned be coloured so as to show the boundaries, and deposited in the Safes provided for the custody of the Trust Deeds of the Circuits. The Conference further directs that these arrangements be made in all cases of alteration in the boundaries of existing Circuits (1874, vol. xix., p. 454).

Stations

1. All Stations appearing on the Minutes shall be numbered (1886, p. 204 ; 1909, p. 361).

2. All Stations . . . that are self-supporting or that receive a definite Grant from the Home Mission Fund, engaging to provide the remaining sum necessary for the support of the Ministry, shall be entitled to have two Circuit Stewards.

3. Any Station . . . in which the support of the Ministry devolves on the Home Missionary Committee, the Station contributing only its Class and Ticket money and Quarterly Collections, or else a specified sum, ought to have one Circuit Steward (1878, p. 184).

Appointment of Ministers to Circuits and Chapels

The appointment of Preachers shall remain solely with the Conference (1795, vol. i., p. 341). See *Deed of Declaration*, pp. 659-61, 663 ; see also pp. 166-68.

N.B.—The Plan of Pacification provides for an exceptional case of appointment arising out of the proceedings of a Mixed District Synod. See p. 102.

At the head of the Stations in each year the following N.B. is printed :—

1. Each of the places mentioned in these Stations, and numbered consecutively . . . is the head of the Circuit ; and the Minister first named is the Superintendent. In the event of his death, resignation, or incapacity, the Minister next named, provided such Minister be in Full Connexion with the Conference, and in full work, is the Superintendent. In case there is no Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference, and in full work, appointed to or remaining in the Circuit, the Chairman of the District is the Superintendent.

2. The Superintendent and other Minister or Ministers, stationed in or appointed to the several Circuits undermentioned, is and are appointed by the Conference to preach and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline in each and every one of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapels already erected, or to be erected, in each Circuit respectively, within the space of twelve calendar months, at such time or times, and in such manner as to him or them shall seem proper ; subject, nevertheless, to the Superintendent Minister, and to the existing laws and regulations of the Conference.

Supply for a Superintendent

The Conference declares that even if a Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference be sent to a Circuit to supply the place of the Superintendent during the year, the Minister so sent does not thereby acquire any of the rights of the Superintendent as such (1907, pp. 347, 348).

Desirable that Superintendents should be Ministers in Full Connexion

1. In the opinion of the Conference it is most desirable that only such Ministers as are in Full Connexion should be appointed to the office of Superintendent (1886, p. 204).

2. The Conference shall make provision for exceptional cases by directing that the Minister appointed shall act under the direction of the Chairman of the District (1909, p. 361).

Circuits to which only One Minister is Appointed

The Conference strongly disapproves of the practice of forming Circuits in which only one Travelling Preacher

has been stationed ; and resolves that, even in the cases where this plan has been introduced, or where, from some strong necessity, a Circuit of that kind may be formed in future, a change of the Preacher with some of the Brethren in the neighbouring Circuits shall be appointed, and published in the Minutes ; so that no Preacher may be stationed alone, without provision for such change, in any part of the Kingdom (1820, vol. v., p. 145).

Expenses of Interchange

The Conference directs that the expenses of interchanges between Ministers residing in various Circuits, appointed by the Conference, shall in no case fall upon the Ministers themselves, but shall be provided by the Circuits concerned under the direction of the District Synods (1878, p. 252).

The President of the Conference and Circuits

The President of the Conference shall have a right, if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit, and to inquire into their affairs with respect to METHODISM, and, in union with the District Synod, redress any grievance (1797, vol. i., p. 395).

For *Special District Synod* see pp. 516-18.

Chairmen of Districts and Circuits

1. The Chairman must never, individually, interfere with any other Circuit but his own (1792, vol. i., p. 270).
2. The Conference recommends it to the Superintendents of the Circuits to invite, on all important occasions, the Chairmen of their respective Districts to be present at their Quarterly Meetings (1797, vol. i., p. 395).

3. The Chairmen are directed to visit each Circuit, in their respective Districts, to which only one Minister is appointed, at least twice in each year, wherever it is at all practicable, and, if possible, at the time of holding a Quarterly Meeting (1842, vol. ix., p. 397).

4. *Q.* How may the experience, counsel, and supervision of our Chairmen of Districts be rendered more available in cases of special difficulty or emergency?

A. Each Chairman is authorized to visit, officially, any Circuit in his District to which he shall be invited by the Superintendent; or respecting which, after consultation with the Superintendent, he shall be satisfied that his timely assistance or intervention may be necessary or salutary, for the preservation of Christian peace and order, or for the faithful and judicious execution of our entire Connexional Economy and Discipline (1844, vol. x., p. 90). See p. 192.

5. Except in cases expressly provided for by the Conference, viz. the Circuit Quarterly Meeting and the Special Circuit Meeting, the Chairman of the District ought not so far to set aside the office and the responsibility of the Superintendent of a Circuit as to take the chair at any meeting for the administration of discipline in any Circuit other than his own, unless a District Synod, in special circumstances, otherwise direct.

Even in such special circumstances, unless a District Synod otherwise direct, the Superintendent should be responsible for administering, after consultation with the Chairman and his own Colleagues, any measures of discipline which may be deemed necessary (1872, vol. xviii., p. 650).

For *Special Circuit Meeting* see pp. 189-93.

Relation of Army and Navy Ministers to Circuits

1. Ministers appointed for the benefit of Wesleyan Methodists in the Army and Royal Navy, or both, and supported by the Home Mission Committee, shall conduct all special Parade Services.

2. Generally, it is desirable that Ministers designated to Army Work should be appointed to Circuits in the ordinary way, and that arrangements should be made between the Home Mission Committee and the Circuit Authorities with reference to details of work and payment.

3. The Quarterly Meetings of Circuits to which Army Ministers are designated shall, when such appointments are proposed, be invited to send representatives to meet the Committee to arrange such details. In cases where more than one Circuit is concerned, the authorities of each Circuit shall be consulted (1879, p. 237).

4. Ministers who are appointed to Army and Navy Work are not to be considered as Ministers of the Circuit in which they may be stationed, so as to be claimed for circuit work, unless special arrangements be made with the Army and Navy Sub-Committee. After their proper work has been efficiently done, they may give such help to the Circuit as they can, but only by arrangement in writing between the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Army and Navy Sub-Committee. Their personal conduct is to be under the cognisance of the Superintendent of the Circuit and the District Synod, subject to the before-mentioned conditions (1889, p. 318 ; 1890, p. 256 ; 1914, p. 412).

5. In all things connected with his military engagements the Army and Navy Minister shall correspond

with, and act under the direction of, the Army and Navy Sub-Committee; and in all other ecclesiastical matters he shall act in concert with the Superintendent and the other Ministers of the Circuit in our usual way, attending the Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit in which he may reside (1877, vol. xx., pp. 400, 401).

6. Wherever capitation payments are received on behalf of our Wesleyan Soldiers and Seamen, the pastoral duties which are entailed thereby shall be strictly fulfilled, and every facility and encouragement given to the men, their wives and families, to become attached to the services of the Chapels in which, by these payments, they are now seatholders (1889, p. 319).

7. All Ministers working for the benefit of Soldiers and Sailors in Stations where Wesleyan Homes already exist, or shall be established, shall include in their quarterly reports an account of the work done in the Homes; and at the District Synod in May the financial condition of such Homes shall be reported, as in the case of other trust properties (1889, p. 318).

8. The Ministers appointed to officiate for Wesleyans in the Army and Royal Navy shall be so designated on the Circuit Plans.

9. All stated appointments made for the Army and Navy Work, such as Hospital and Prison Visitation, and Religious Instruction for the Young, shall appear on the Circuit Plans (1890, pp. 256, 257).

Schedules from Departments

As it is obviously desirable that the Committees appointed by the Conference to manage the several Departments of the business of the Connexion, in the

intervals of its Session, should be furnished with all necessary statistical information on the matters of business severally confided to their care, the Conference authorizes them, through their appointed Officers, to send, when they deem it expedient, suitable Circulars and Schedules to the Superintendents, or to the Chairmen of Districts, as the case may require ; and directs the Superintendents and Chairmen duly to return such Schedules properly filled up (1840, vol. ix., p. 105).

II. RELATING TO THE CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING

Constitution

1. All the Ministers and Preachers on Trial in the Circuit ; and Supernumeraries whose names appear in connexion with the Circuit in the printed Minutes of the Conference.

N.B.—A Minister residing in a Circuit 'without Pastoral Charge' shall not, as a Minister, be a member of the Quarterly Meeting (1888, p. 215).

2. The Circuit Stewards, all the Society Stewards, and the Poor Stewards in the Circuit.

3. All the Class Leaders and the duly appointed Assistant Leaders in the Circuit.

4. The Leaders of Junior Society Classes in the Circuit provided they have reached the age of twenty-one years.

5. All the fully-accredited Local Preachers in the Circuit, they being Members of Society in the Circuit.

6. All the Trustees of Chapels situate in places named on the Circuit Plan, such Trustees being Members of

Society in the Circuit, whether residing in the Circuit or not.

7. The Representatives of the Societies in the Circuit elected as members of the Leaders' Meetings according to the scheme approved by the Conference. See pp. 43, 44.

8. The Sunday School Representatives, chosen according to the scheme approved by the Conference in 1894 (1852, vol. xii., p. 111; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 625; 1872, vol. xviii., p. 652; 1894, pp. 313, 314; 1895, p. 315; 1901, pp. 531, 532; 1908, p. 108; 1909, p. 109; 1913, p. 354). See pp. 216, 217.

9. The Superintendent of the Circuit is, *ex officio*, the Chairman of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, as of all other official Meetings of the Circuit. When the Superintendent, from any cause, is unable to attend the Circuit Quarterly Meeting, he shall depute one of his Colleagues to act in his place, or, if he has no Colleague in Full Connexion, the Chairman of the District shall preside (1901, p. 532).

10. The Secretary of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting must be chosen from among the members of that Meeting (1901, p. 532).

Central Mission Quarterly Meetings and Trustees

The Conference resolves that the direction that the Quarterly Meeting of the Manchester Mission (Oldham Street Circuit) shall include the Trustees of all the Chapels and Mission Halls who are Members of Society, whether such Trustees are resident in the Circuit or not, shall apply to all the Central Missions whose Committees are appointed by the Conference (1910, p. 103; 1911, p. 83). See 1910, pp. 42-6.

Dissolution of Meeting

Q. It appears that, in a few Quarterly Meetings, the Superintendent and the other Travelling Preachers have been desired to withdraw on certain occasions. What is the judgement of the Conference on this point? *A.* We judge that if the Superintendent of a Circuit, or any of his Colleagues, be obliged to withdraw from a Quarterly Meeting during its sittings, the Meeting will be thereby dissolved, and we will receive no letters or information from such Meeting on any account. And if any Superintendent, or other Travelling Preacher, do willingly submit to any such requisition, so as to withdraw from any such Meeting before its conclusion, he shall, on proof, receive due censure at the ensuing Conference (1806, vol. ii., p. 347).

Chairman of Meeting

See p. 139.

It is the business of the Superintendent Minister 'to hold Quarterly Meetings, and therein diligently to inquire both into the spiritual and temporal state of each Society' (1749, vol. i., p. 44).

Instructions to Chairmen of Official Meetings

See p. 72.

The Ballot

1. The Conference declares that the practice of voting by ballot in the administration of Methodism in our Circuits is contrary to long-established usage, and that its adoption would in various ways be injurious to the interests of our Societies (1884, p. 191).

2. The Conference resolves that at the elections in

Quarterly Meetings of the Representatives to the District Synods the usage of open voting may be departed from, and the elections decided by ballot, after nomination by Lay members of the Meeting.

3. In respect of all other elections made at Quarterly Meetings, the Conference reaffirms its Regulation of 1884 (1893, p. 319).

Not a Court of Appeal in Disciplinary Cases

The Conference declares that the proposal to constitute the Quarterly Meeting of each Circuit a Court of Final Appeal against a sentence founded on the previous proceedings of a Leaders' Meeting is altogether inadmissible (1850, vol. xi., p. 468). See *Special Circuit Meeting*, p. 151.

FINANCE OF THE CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETING

INCOME

Circuit and Connexional Finance

The Conference advises that, wherever possible, a printed statement should be furnished annually to the Members of our Church and Congregations of all money collected in the Circuit for Local and Connexional purposes, together with Accounts of the appropriation of the same. The Conference further considers it most desirable that a brief explanation should accompany the Accounts describing the objects for which the funds are obtained (1910, p. 107).

N.B.—The chief sources of Circuit Quarterly Meeting Income are: Contributions in the Classes; Collections in the Chapels; Weekly Offertory; Grants from Chapel

Trustees; Grants to Dependent Circuits from the Home Mission Fund; and Grants from the Connexional Fund.

Recommendations of Commission on Finance

In 1914 the Conference adopted the following recommendations of the Commission on Finance:

1. Whilst recognizing the great liberality of our people, an effort should be made to create a more general sense of the privilege of proportionate and systematic giving, in order to bring about a more equable distribution of the burden of finance.

2. The Offertories should be strictly devoted to the purposes for which they are given.

3. The Conference should reaffirm its Regulations as to making two Collections for Connexional Funds, and direct, when the Connexional Collections are made, there should be a more adequate and intelligent explanation of the same in the announcement from the pulpit.

4. The Conference should re-affirm its Law concerning unauthorized appeals, as the Commission regards the present system of indiscriminate application for any but special cases sanctioned by the Conference as extremely undesirable and irritating.

N.B.—The Law is as follows: Applications for pecuniary assistance towards Chapels or Schools shall not be made beyond the limits of the Circuits in which such Chapels or Schools are, or are intended to be, erected, unless such applications shall have been expressly sanctioned by the Conference (1866, vol. xvi., p. 567).

5. The utmost caution should be exercised locally before sending on proposals which involve serious financial liability with regard to large building schemes or the calling out of additional Ministers.

6. The Conference should direct the attention of Circuits to the possibility of economizing their finance by improved banking methods, for example, such as collective banking ; it is also desirable that inquiry be made throughout the Connexion as to unclaimed balances of our Funds which may be lying at the various banks.

7. Upon a review of the whole question remitted the Commission is of opinion that it is unnecessary to suggest any radical change in the prevailing methods for meeting Circuit Finance where the three main sources are found inadequate to meet expenditure, viz. : (1) Class Contributions, (2) Offertories, (3) Trust Subscriptions. The Commission is convinced that local considerations must determine the subsidiary methods that are necessary. It would, however, urge that the Circuits should cultivate in all their Societies the incalculable privilege of systematic giving which our Class Meeting provides, and is assured that it only needs a deepening sense of the stewardship of money that our financial obligations may be fully met (1914, pp. 111, 112).

For Report of the Commission see 1914, pp. 110-112.

Weekly Offertory System

1. The Conference recommends that in every Chapel in which the Offertory System has been introduced, as well as in all other Chapels, the Connexional Collections shall be made on Sundays set apart for the purpose, shall be duly announced beforehand, the objects and need of the Fund concerned distinctly stated, and an appeal made, and the whole sum so gathered strictly devoted to the stated purpose.

2. The Conference recommends that where the aggregate results of the Weekly Offertory System show an increase of Circuit income (derived from the same sources) over that of years antecedent to the introduction of the System, the Connexional Funds, whether they have suffered or not, shall equitably share in such increased income ; and that this object shall be secured by Offertories specially appropriated for this purpose, or otherwise.

3. The Conference expresses its strong objection to the practice of allotting to the Connexional Funds any average sum, i.e. a proportion of the yearly receipts from the Offertory, calculated upon the average collections for a given Fund during a number of years preceding the introduction of the Offertory, in lieu of making collections for each Fund according to rule. Such a practice is unfair to the several Funds, which are thus precluded from sharing in the general life and progress of the Circuit, and is further liable to the fatal objection that it shuts out all opportunity of bringing the various Funds and their claims before our congregations (1889, pp. 286, 287).

4. The Conference is of opinion that the Offertory System should not be adopted in any Chapel without the consent of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1889, p. 286).

5. The Conference calls the attention of Circuit authorities to the question of the Offertory in relation to our Connexional Funds, and urges the necessity of safeguarding those collections which, by order of the Conference, are made for Connexional purposes (1906, p. 110).

6. The Conference expresses its strong disapprobation of the practice which obtains in some Circuits of

deducting the average amount of the Weekly Offertory from the Connexional Collections and remitting only the balance to the Department concerned. The Conference also emphasizes the importance, where the Offertory is in operation, of making the most of the appeal for Connexional objects, so that every opportunity may be given to our people to support the Connexional Funds. The Conference reaffirms the Regulation which requires that two Sunday collections annually shall be made in all our Chapels for the Connexional Funds ; the amount collected on any given Sunday to be remitted to the Treasurer of the Fund concerned, without any deduction (1910, pp. 28, 29). See p. 142.

Contributions from Trust Funds

The Chapel Model Deed contains the following clause referring to the appropriation of surplus money : ' And upon further trust, from time to time to pay and apply any surplus money, remaining after the due payment of all such lawful debts, costs, charges, incumbrances, and expenses as aforesaid (but according, and in conformity to, the General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists) for, or towards, the support of the Preacher, or Preachers, for the time being respectively appointed by the said Conference . . . either in the Circuit in which the said Chapel, or place of religious worship, shall for the time being be situated, or in that, and some other Circuit or Circuits, or in some other Circuit or Circuits only. . . .' See pp. 717, 718.

N.B.—1. Trustees applying to the Chapel Committee for Relief by Loans without interest shall engage to ' appropriate the surplus proceeds of their Trust Property to the support and extension of the Work of God in their

Circuits, or in aid of Connexional Institutions ' (1866, vol. xvi., p. 570).

2. The Chapel Committee shall have liberty to assist . . . in the erection of Chapels in which no Seat Rents are to be charged, and in the payment of debts on such Chapels, provided . . . that it shall be proved that an income can be obtained from other sources sufficient to meet all the expenses of the Trust, to provide for an annual subscription to the Chapel Fund, and for such assistance to the Circuit Funds and other objects as would have been given if Seat Rents had been charged (1889, p. 224).

3. Superintendents shall request Trustees of Chapels to vote to the Circuit Funds as much as can be afforded out of their Trust Income (1866, vol. xvi., p. 568).

Army Capitation Payments

In all cases where the Capitation Payment, other than the amount paid for Seat Rents, is assigned to the Circuit Funds, the Minister responsible for the Army and Navy Work shall be proportionally relieved of other Circuit duties (1890, pp. 257, 258). See p. 137.

Army and Navy Returns

At the Quarterly Meeting, when the Annual Army and Navy Returns are presented, the Work of God among our soldiers and seamen shall be statedly considered (1890, p. 257).

EXPENDITURE

General Increase of Ministers' Allowances in the Connexion at Large

No new proposal which is designed to effect a general augmentation of the income of the Preachers, in the

Connexion at large, shall be definitively adopted as a Rule until it shall have received the assent of a majority of the District Synods throughout the Kingdom, at the time when the financial affairs of the Districts are transacted ; during which time, according to an existing Rule, the Circuit Stewards of every Circuit in each District are to be invited to attend the District Synod, and shall have a right to vote on every such proposal respecting any general increase of Allowances (1815, vol. iv., p. 130).

District Sustentation Fund

N.B.—For the principles on which the receipts from the surplus of District Sustentation Funds are to be administered by the Home Mission Committee see *Minutes*, 1875, vol. xix., p. 683.

Grants from Home Mission Fund

Whilst every consideration and sufficient assistance should be afforded—by Ordinary Grants—to Circuits that are financially unable to provide for the support of their Ministers, the Conference directs each District Synod to encourage Circuits that are capable of becoming self-supporting to declare themselves independent of the Home Mission Fund, thereby adding to their own vigour and enterprise, as well as making the Grants now received by them available for aggressive work in other parts of the District (1880, pp. 218, 219).

Grants from Connexional Fund

See pp. 151-54.

Children's Allowances for Maintenance

1. The Circuit Steward of every Circuit shall be expected to pay the regular Allowances for Children (by

quarterly instalments, as usual) to those Preachers, stationed for the time being in their Circuit, who are entitled to receive such Allowances, according to our existing Rules (1819, vol. v., p. 45).

N.B.—In 1806 the Conference advised that in all the Circuits the Allowance for Preachers' Children should be raised to six guineas per annum (1806, vol. ii., p. 347). In some Circuits a larger sum is given.

2. The Preachers are permitted to receive the usual and regular Allowances for their Children . . . until they attain the age of nineteen years ; unless, by marriage or otherwise, they shall at an earlier period become independent of their parents in point of pecuniary support (1814, vol. iv., p. 37 ; 1893, p. 251 ; 1903, p. 25).

N.B.—1. The Children's Fund year closes on June 30. The quarterly payments to Ministers are paid in full in September, December, March, and June. As each year is complete in itself, no portion of a quarter's allowance is to be paid to a Minister changing his Circuit.

2. The claims of Children of Supernumeraries and Deceased Ministers are met by the District Treasurer, in whose hands the list is to be placed by the Financial Secretary. See *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 94.

3. For the case of a married Probationer having a Child or Children see p. 269.

The Children's Fund

N.B.—1. In 1818 the Conference determined to submit to the District Synods, when Circuit Stewards were present, the question of the propriety of making every District responsible for providing within itself, and by its own local resources, the Allowances for such a number

of Preachers' Children as would fairly belong to it, according to the principle of proportion to the numbers and other circumstances of the Societies. The District Synods having generally approved of 'the principle and the plan' which had been submitted for consideration, the Conference in 1819 passed a series of Resolutions constituting the Children's Fund (see 1818, vol. iv., p. 454; 1819, vol. v., pp. 44-8).

In 1884 the Conference changed the basis of calculation (see 1883, pp. 248, 249; 1884, pp. 271, 272). See pp. 505-10.

2. The Regulations and Bye-laws governing the administration of the Children's Fund, in both its branches of Maintenance and Education, have been codified, and published by the direction of the Conference (1886), and can be obtained at the Wesleyan Conference Office.

First and Last Claims

The usual quarterly Allowance to Children having regular claims on the Children's Fund shall only commence on the first quarter-day after their birth; one quarter's Allowance in advance shall then be considered as becoming due, and the same sum as due on every succeeding quarter-day (except in the case of boys [and girls] while at our Public Schools) until they attain to that age at which, according to our established Rules, the Allowances finally cease to be claimable (1820, vol. v., p. 139). See p. 148.

For *Our Public Schools* see pp. 488-92.

N.B.—Preachers who marry Widows (other than Preachers' Widows) having Children, have no claim for such Children on any of our Funds (see 1798, vol. i., p. 431).

Children Born during the Year

In 1868 the Conference rescinded the then existing Rule affecting 'payments to Children born during the year, and whose names are not contained in the returns laid before the preceding Conference or the Financial District Synod.' It resolved that 'all such cases shall henceforth be met as they may arise, by arrangement between the Circuit Stewards and the District Treasurers of the Children's Fund' (1868, vol. xvii., p. 371).

N.B.—In the case of Children born after the May Synod and before June 30, the Financial Secretary of the District shall apply to the Secretary of the Children's Fund, during the Conference, for the quarter's Allowance. See *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 94.

Children Dying during the Year

In the case of the death of any regular claimant on this Fund, the parents or guardians of such deceased claimant shall be entitled to receive a sum equal to a whole year's Allowance, in lieu of the quarterly payment due at the quarter-day next after such decease, to be a final Grant from the Fund towards the expenses of affliction and burial (1870, vol. xviii., p. 131).

N.B.—1. The Conference, in 1896, directed that the above Regulation should apply to the case of Infants dying before payment has become due (*Journal*, 1896).

2. A Minister received at once into Full Connexion from another Conference or Church, having a Child or Children, must, when so admitted or within six months thereafter, pay compensation to the Children's Fund in order to give such Child or Children a claim on the Fund. A similar Rule covers the case of a married

Probationer having a Child or Children. (See 1881, pp. 230, 231). For amount of compensation see pp. 268-70.

Children's Allowances must be Paid

The Conference resolves that the Financial District Synods in September shall not vote any Grant of money from the Connexional Fund to any Circuit which may solicit such assistance unless such Circuit engage to pay the whole of the Children's Allowances allotted to it for that year, according to Rule. And neither the regular District Synods, nor the Conference, shall pay any sums so granted, unless it shall be certified that the said quota of Children's Allowances for the year has been, or will be, honourably discharged by the Circuit ; or, at least, that the Stewards have consented to the deduction of the sum wanted for that purpose from the amount of the Ordinary Deficiencies which were previously voted to their Circuit, so that its allotted share of Children's Allowances may, in all cases, be duly provided in the course of the current year (1820, vol. v., p. 139).

For further Regulations relating to the Children's Fund see pp. 505-10, 607-10.

Grants from Connexional Fund

N.B.—I. Grants to Circuits from the Connexional Fund include Grants for Ministerial Afflictions and Funeral Expenses, Circuit Supplies, Removal Expenses, and Furniture for Additional Ministers' Houses. From this Fund Grants are also given, under certain specified conditions, to Ministers for Circuit Travelling (p. 593). See *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, pp. 69-71.

2. All the expenses for the support of the Ministry for which the Circuit cannot provide, and therefore needs assistance from the Connexional Fund, must be sanctioned by the Quarterly Meeting before they can be brought to the District Synod (1869, vol. xvii., p. 625).

3. Applications for Grants for Supplies, Circuit Travelling, Removals, Furniture, and Afflictions shall be submitted to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, whose recommendations shall be reported to the May Synod (1901, p. 54).

4. In view of the continuous growth of the Connexion, and the increasing demands necessarily made upon the Connexional Fund for Connexional purposes, as well as Grants for Afflictions, Funeral Expenses, Supplies, Circuit Travelling, and similar purposes, the Conference reaffirms the old-established Rule that self-supporting Circuits should bear such expenses in respect of their own Ministers without having recourse to this Fund (1880, p. 219 ; 1902, p. 53).

5. For *Grants to Preachers on Trial* see p. 154.

Grants for Afflictions and Funeral Expenses

1. No Grant for affliction shall be paid by the Connexional Fund Committee until the claim has first been presented to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the application comes, and has been approved by the District Synod to which the Circuit belongs (1879, p. 229).

2. As the law of Christ not only devolves the support of Christian Ministers upon the people of their charge, but enjoins love and esteem towards them for their work's sake, self-supporting Circuits are urged to avoid, as far as possible, making applications to the Connexional

Fund for Grants towards the afflictions and the funeral expenses of their own Ministers (1880, p. 219).

3. Let no more than £12 be allowed in future, from our General Funds, towards the funeral expenses of any Preacher (1812, vol. iii., p. 293).

Grants for Removals

1. Grants for Removal Expenses, as well as for Afflictions, shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit on which the amount will be charged, and shall be approved by the District Synod to which that Circuit belongs (1875, vol. xix., p. 682; 1876, vol. xx., p. 126).

2. A Grant towards the Removal Expenses of any Minister may be made by the Connexional Fund Committee, so soon as it has been certified by the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee that the claim is reasonable, that it has been duly submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the removal has taken place, and that the Circuit is unable to meet the whole expense (1879, p. 229).

N.B.—Removal Expenses are charged on the Circuit from which the removal has taken place (1876, vol. xx., p. 126).

Removal Expenses of an Invited Minister

If any Minister be appointed by the Conference to a Circuit after an invitation sent by that Circuit to the Minister, every expense incurred by his removal, beyond what the Circuit he is leaving may provide, shall be borne by his new Circuit (1879, pp. 228, 229).

Travelling Expenses of Supplies

In regard to Travelling Expenses, a Probationer sent to a Circuit as a Supply is dealt with on the same prin-

ciple as one who is appointed by the Conference to his first Circuit. Once arrived in a Circuit as a Supply, he receives his Travelling Expenses from that Circuit to another when removed by the President during the year or by the Conference at the end of the year (1901, p. 359).

Circuit Travelling

See pp. 593, 594.

Grants and Preachers on Trial

1. A practice having grown up for Preachers on Trial to apply to the Connexional Fund for Grants for Afflictions, Supplies, &c., in the same manner as Ministers in Full Connexion, the Conference declares that for the future it be understood that Preachers on Trial have no claim upon the Connexional Fund for any extraordinary expenses (1879, p. 229).

2. With regard to the Rule by which Preachers on Trial have no claim upon the Connexional Fund for Grants for Afflictions and Supplies, or any other extraordinary purpose, the Conference grants permission to the Committee to consider special cases amongst Probationers, in respect of Afflictions and Supplies, which may from time to time arise, with a view to affording some assistance (1903, pp. 61, 62).

Special Grant from Circuit Funds to Preachers on Trial

In order to promote the Ministerial improvement of our Junior Preachers during their probation, by facilitating their acquisition of our Standard Works and of other suitable theological books, we earnestly recommend to the Quarterly Meetings of those Circuits in which such Preachers are stationed, while on Trial, to

allow them a sum not less than one guinea per quarter, in addition to their usual salary, to be laid out in the purchase of books, under the direction of their Superintendent and other Colleagues (1825, vol. vi., p. 65).

Interchanges

For Regulation relating to the payment of the expenses of Interchanges appointed by the Conference see p. 134.

Pledges to Support Married instead of Single Ministers

1. No additional single Preacher can be sent in future to any Circuit unless such Circuit engage to support an additional married Preacher, instead of the single Preacher, at the end of four years at the latest (1813, vol. iii., p. 386).

2. In order to possess an explicit record of pledges made to the Conference by Circuits applying for additional Ministers, and engaging to receive and support married Ministers at the time specified, the Treasurers and Secretaries of the Home Mission Fund are instructed to prepare a Form of pledge to be filled up and signed by the Circuit Stewards, countersigned by the Superintendent, and presented at the Conference, when the application is made; and these authenticated pledges shall be preserved with the other documents of the Conference (*Journal*, 1858; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 514).

3. Any Circuit making application for an additional Minister shall furnish a House not later than at the end of four years, and at the end of three years wherever practicable; and the Superintendent and Circuit Stewards, acting by the direction of the Quarterly Meeting, shall sign a pledge to this effect, and satisfy the District

Synod that there is a reasonable probability that such pledge will be duly redeemed. This pledge shall be in the keeping of the Secretary of the Home Mission Fund, and a copy of it shall be inserted in the District Minutes (1879, pp. 229, 230). For *Additional Ministers* see p. 469.

Failure to Redeem Pledge

Whenever a married Minister is appointed to a Circuit which has failed to fulfil its obligation to provide for a family, the additional amount paid to him shall be entered as a Grant to the Circuit; and, so long as the pledge remains unfulfilled, it shall be considered annually, first in the May District Synod, and then on the report of that Synod, by the Conference whether the appointment should be longer continued (1879, p. 230).

For scale of Allowances paid by the Home Mission Committee to a married Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference for whom no House is provided see *Minutes*, 1879, p. 230.

Grants towards the Furnishing of Additional Houses

1. Circuits calling out additional Ministers shall pay annually to the Committee of the Connexional Fund the sum of £40 until such period as a House be furnished and provision made for the support of a married Minister. When the House is furnished and such provision made, the sum of £210 shall be paid by the Committee towards the cost of furnishing, being the return of four years' payments, and a grant of £50 in addition.

2. Circuits that have already received the appointment of a Probationer shall be invited to fall in with this arrangement, and those who consent to do so shall re-

ceive a grant of £50 (instead of £40 as at present) when the House is furnished (1900, pp. 260, 261 ; 1901, p. 54).

3. The sums thus paid to the Connexional Fund shall be deposited in a separate account to be opened with the Common Cash Office (1901, p. 54).

4. As soon as practicable, the spheres of labour now occupied by Home Missionary Ministers shall be incorporated with the general work of Circuits ; and in every case in which a married Minister shall be appointed to a Circuit, in connexion with such an arrangement, the sum of £50 shall be granted by the Connexional Fund Committee, if requested by the Circuit, towards furnishing the additional Minister's House (1879, p. 235).

For Regulations relating to Loans from the Chapel Committee for the erection, or purchase, of Ministers' Houses see pp. 116, 117.

Supplies

1. Any Minister needing a Supply is directed to communicate with the Chairman of the District before applying to the President ; and the Chairman is also directed to satisfy himself, by personal inquiry, that an efficient local Supply cannot be obtained (1889, p. 309).

2. Any Minister on whose behalf a Supply has been appointed shall retain the Supply for one month after he has given notice to the President that his services will no longer be required,—unless the President has employment for him sooner. And such Minister, when he gives notice to the President that, after a given date, the services of the Supply will be no longer required, shall, at the same time, notify the fact to the Chairman of the District (1889, p. 309).

3. Every Probationer sent by the President as a

Supply shall be paid at the rate of Thirty Guineas a year for the time he is in the Circuit ; this Allowance being in addition to Board and Lodging (1879, p. 229).

4. In respect of payment, the year of a trained man on the President's List of Reserve appointed in connexion with, or immediately after, the Conference, shall reckon from the first day of September to the last day of August (1887, p. 259).

5. In regard to Travelling Expenses, a Probationer sent to a Circuit as a Supply is dealt with on the same principle as one who is appointed by the Conference to his first Circuit. Once arrived in a Circuit as a Supply, he receives his travelling expenses from that Circuit to another when removed by the President during the year or by the Conference at the end of the year (1889, p. 310).

6. The employment of Students as Supplies, otherwise than by the President, during their vacation, shall continue as heretofore to be matter of private arrangement, in regard to which neither the President nor the Home Mission Committee shall have responsibility ; except in those special cases in which the Connexional Fund Committee may grant Supplies, for short periods, to Chairmen of Districts (1887, p. 260). See p. 446.

For Regulations concerning Supplies see *Standing Orders of the Conference*, Part I., 1914, pp. 381-4.

Assistants to Senior Ministers

In reference to Assistants granted to Ministers who have travelled forty years and upwards, the Conference has resolved : ' Except in those cases in which the Conference shall decide that the whole of the expense shall be borne by the Connexional Fund, the support of any

Assistant who may be appointed shall be provided for as follows: One-third by the Minister assisted, or by the Circuit to which he is appointed; one-third by the Auxiliary Fund; and one-third by the Connexional Fund. The expense shall be calculated so as to include the amount which it may be necessary to reserve to meet prospective charges on Connexional Funds' (1893, pp. 318, 319). See p. 370.

Sanitary Condition of Ministers' Houses

1. Circuit Stewards are required to have an inspection of every Minister's House at every change of Minister by an independent sanitary expert (and, wherever possible, such inspection shall be by the Sanitary Inspector of the Local Authority), and to forward a certificate of the good sanitary condition of the House to the Chairman of the District before August 21.

2. Attention shall be called to these requirements at the May Synod, and inquiry shall be made at the September Synod whether this requirement of the Conference has been carried out (1893, p. 327; 1894, p. 323; 1905, p. 118; 1911, p. 95).

Lay Agents Employed by District Home Mission Committees

1. (i.) The District Home Mission and Chapel Committee shall approve only such Lay Agents as may be recommended by the Quarterly Meeting of any Circuit. (ii.) They shall superintend, in harmony with the Circuit Quarterly Meetings, or the Circuit Home Mission Committees, the transfer from Circuit to Circuit, within the District, of duly accredited Lay Agents. (iii.) They may provide, if they think fit, Lay Agents to labour within the District in any sphere not now included in any

1 Circuit or Home Mission Station. (iv.) They shall determine, in conjunction with the Quarterly Meetings, or with Committees duly appointed by Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits concerned, the limits of the sphere of labour of any Lay Agent ; and they shall require and receive a quarterly Report of his labours. (v.) They shall receive applications from Circuits desiring to employ Lay Agents, and shall negotiate the amount which the Circuits shall respectively contribute towards the support of the Agents, and shall correspond with the Quarterly Meeting, or the Circuit Home Mission Committee, as to their selection, appointment, and duties. . . .

2. No such Lay Agent shall be employed in any Circuit except on the resolution of the Quarterly Meeting ; and every such Agent shall act under the immediate direction of a Committee appointed by the Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting, or its Committee, shall have power to engage, remove, or dismiss him, giving due notice thereof to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee.

3. All Lay Agents shall be engaged subject to the following regulations, the violation or neglect of which shall invalidate all claims to pecuniary help from the District :

- (i.) Every such Agent must have been recommended for employment as a Lay Agent, in the first instance, by the Quarterly Meeting, or the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he was at the time a resident Member of Society.
- (ii.) He must be approved by the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee.
- (iii.) No Lay Agent shall be engaged for more than one year at a time, subject to not less than one

month's notice, or salary in case of dismissal, the same notice being required should he wish to resign; and no Lay Agent shall remain at the same Mission Station for a longer period than four years.

(iv.) Every Lay Agent shall be required to keep a Journal, which shall be submitted to the Superintendent Minister. . . . He shall also furnish a Report of visits paid and services held to the Quarterly Meeting, or to the Committee appointed by it.

(v.) The means for the support of such Lay Agency shall not be derived from the ordinary income of the Quarterly Meeting, but from subscriptions and collections contributed expressly for such Lay Agency.

4. While observing the foregoing Resolutions and Regulations, two or more Circuits may combine for the employment of one or more Lay Agents.

N.B.—1. In the foregoing Scheme, the term Lay Agents is intended to include both men and women, who must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society (1879, pp. 238-40).

2. Among the Resolutions constituting the General Basis on which the Scheme for the Employment of District Lay Agents was founded are the following:

(1) It must be a governing principle that no interference can be allowed with the responsibility of the Superintendent Minister, or with the constitutional rights and authority of the Quarterly Meeting.

(2) Such a plan for the employment of Lay Agents shall not have any authority or any necessary application in cases where such Agents are entirely supported

by funds obtained within the Circuit or Circuits immediately concerned (1879, p. 238). See pp. 96, 97.

Provision for Lay Agents in Old Age

See *Minutes*, 1905, pp. 37-9.

Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations

I. The Conference is decidedly of opinion that wherever sums, large or small, are collected avowedly for the Foreign or Home Missions, the whole amount should be remitted to the Treasurers of those Funds respectively, to be administered under the direction of their Committees ; and that sums so remitted to the Home Mission Fund should entitle a Circuit to favourable consideration if it requests a Grant for any effort within its boundaries which may be a legitimate object for the application of moneys collected for Home Missions.

In the case of Circuits which are not in a position to ask for the appointment of a Home Missionary Minister, and to give the pledge required, but which feel the necessity of adopting some plan of Home Missionary operations, the subjoined allocation is allowed : One-third of the sums received to be paid to the Funds of the Foreign Missionary Society, it being expressly understood that in every case the contribution to the Foreign Missions shall be at least equal to what has been presented from Christmas Offerings on the average of several preceding years ; one-third to the Home Mission Fund ; one-third to the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of a directly Home Missionary character, under the direction of the Superintendent, and of a Committee to be appointed at the December Quarterly Meeting (1863, vol. xv., p. 528 ; 1877, vol. xx., p. 398).

2. The Conference directs that a Return of the gross amount collected in the various Circuits by Juvenile Missionary Associations, with the proportions of that amount allocated to the various subjects, shall be made yearly at the May Meeting of the District Synods (1885, p. 195).

3. The Conference resolves to permit the continuance of the method of division into thirds, where this is preferred by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1907, p. 101).

Chapels

1. The consent of the Superintendent shall be necessary to every erection, enlargement, alteration, or purchase (1866, vol. xvi., p. 563).

2. No Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house shall be erected, enlarged, or purchased without the previous consent of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (1866, vol. xvi., p. 563; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 626).

N.B.—The Conference declares, that not only every addition to the area of a Chapel, but the erection of a gallery, or of any adjoining room, shall, as heretofore, be considered an enlargement (1872, vol. xviii., p. 624).

See *Compendium of Regulations respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property*, 1866, vol. xvi., pp. 562-71; also *Compendium* issued by the Chapel Committee in 1901. See also pp. 107-26, 474-84.

Mission Chapels and Rooms

1. The Chapel Committee is directed to prepare a short and simple Form of Agreement, suitable for signature by persons in whose names premises are acquired for temporary occupation as Mission Rooms, defining the purposes for which the property is to be held. See p. III.

2. The financial arrangements relating to such premises shall be under the direction of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit in which such premises are situated, or of a Committee appointed thereby, and the consent of other Connexional authorities shall not be required to such arrangements.

3. The preceding arrangements, namely, the use of the short Form of Agreement, and the exemption from the necessity of obtaining the consent of the Connexional authorities, other than the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, shall not be held to apply to premises taken for terms of fourteen years or upwards, or to premises taken on leases which are renewable from time to time, or beyond the period of fourteen years (1879, pp. 275, 276).

Old Chapels in Large Towns with Small Congregations

In respect of Chapels in which the congregations have greatly decreased although surrounded by populations which are, for the most part, destitute and degraded, the Conference is of opinion that the sale of such Chapels should be resorted to only in exceptional circumstances. The Public Services in such Chapels, especially on Sunday evenings, should be adapted to the requirements of the people, and a large number of free seats, comfortable and easily accessible, should be provided; and more practical interest should be shown in the domestic and social well-being of the people in the neighbourhood of such Chapels.

The Minister appointed to take charge of any such Chapel shall concentrate his labours upon that particular Chapel, and such labours shall be supplemented by suitable and sufficient Lay agency (1885, p. 265; 1886, p. 275; 1887, pp. 361-3). See pp. 124, 125.

Methodist Councils in Large Towns

The Conference rejoices that in various large towns, in which there are more Circuits than one, Committees consisting of Ministers and Laymen, representative of the several Circuits, have already been formed for the purpose of united action in such Evangelistic and aggressive work as can best be carried out by a union of the forces of several Circuits. The Conference believes this especially to be the case with reference to those old Chapels the congregations of which, owing to changed conditions, have greatly declined.

The Conference believes that good may result from the experiment, already tried in several places, of holding social gatherings, at which the Ministers and people belonging to different Circuits in the same town may meet each other.

The Conference does not direct the formation of such representative Committees as those alluded to above, nor does it formulate any Rules for their constitution or guidance. The Conference believes that the conditions prevailing in the various towns are so different that more good will result if such Committees, and the movements represented by them, are the outgrowth of local sympathy and earnestness, and take shape according to the particular circumstances of each case.

The Conference commends the consideration of this subject to the attention of Circuit Quarterly Meetings and Monthly Ministers' Meetings (1889, p. 234).

Discontinuance of Day Schools

The Conference directs that when the discontinuance of a Day School is proposed, before such proposal is carried into effect the Superintendent shall consult the

Trustees, the Managing Committee, and the Subscribers; and if, in any case, there is a considerable division of opinion, the case shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit (1878, p. 240). See *Day Schools*, pp. 127, 128, 234-37.

SPECIAL BUSINESS OF EACH QUARTERLY MEETING

MARCH

Annual Return of Members

N.B.—The number of Members in the Society, and of those in Junior Society Classes, are reported in the March Quarterly Meeting.

Invitation to Ministers

The Conference unanimously and earnestly recommends that the Quarterly Meetings, throughout the Connexion, should defer invitations to Ministers till the March Quarterly Meetings (1869, vol. xvii., p. 627).

Term of Appointment to the same Circuit

The Conference shall not nor may nominate or appoint any person to the use and enjoyment of, or to preach and expound God's Holy Word in, any of the Chapels and Premises so given or conveyed, or which may be given or conveyed, upon the Trusts aforesaid, who is not either a member of the Conference or admitted into connexion with the same, or upon Trial as aforesaid; nor appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any Chapel and Premises already given or to be given or conveyed upon the Trusts aforesaid, except ordained Ministers of the

Church of England (*Deed of Declaration*, Clause xi.).
See pp. 663, 664.

Exceptional Appointments

1. The Conference recognizes the necessity of exceptional appointments for a longer period than three years to Missions, and in some special cases to Circuits ; and is gratified to find, on the authority of Counsel, that the method of appointment already adopted in such cases is legally within the power of the Conference (1893, p. 330).

2. The Conference attaches to any extension of the Term beyond three years the following safeguards :

(1) That the invitation be given, as our polity requires, from year to year.

(2) That in no case shall such extension be made where there is not practical unanimity in regard to it in the Quarterly Meeting or in the Committee to which the power of invitation belongs.

(3) Each invitation, with a record of the reasons for it, and the vote of the Quarterly Meeting or any Committee acting under the authority of the Conference, shall be reported to the Stationing Committee, which shall meet, if necessary, specially for the purpose ; and by the Stationing Committee be reported to the Conference, with a recommendation upon it (1911, p. 96).

Probationers who have been Supplies

A Probationer sent by the President, before Christmas, as a Supply, is not thereby disqualified for appointment for a third year to the Circuit where he served as a Supply (1887, pp. 193, 194).

Reappointment of Ministers to Circuits

The term during which a Minister must be absent from a Circuit in England or Wales before he can be reappointed shall be three years. He may then return, provided that the invitation of the Circuit Quarterly Meeting is substantially unanimous (1889, p. 304; 1890, p. 207).

In relation to Scotland, a similar Resolution was adopted in 1866 (vol. xvi., p. 589).

Claims of Conference Towns

The arrangements between Ministers and Circuits may not be set aside in deference to claims preferred by Circuits in Conference Towns at the time the Conference is being held there (*Journal*, 1866; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 514).

Candidates for the Ministry

Before any Superintendent proposes a Preacher to the Conference, as proper to be admitted on Trial, such Preacher must be approved at the March Quarterly Meeting (1869, vol. xvii., p. 625). See pp. 261, 262.

1. The Conference regards it as a settled principle . . . that every Candidate for the Ministry must be approved by the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

2. The Conference believes that this law was intended to secure the concurrent action of the Pastorate and the people in the recommendation of Candidates for the Ministry.

3. The Conference therefore directs that if, in future, any case should occur in which this concurrent action is

not secured, the Chairman of the District in which the Circuit is situated shall be held responsible for making special inquiry into the circumstances, and for reporting thereon to the District Synod and the Conference (1877, vol. xx., p. 435).

The Selection of Candidates

The Conference is of opinion that greater care should be taken in the nomination of Candidates. The Conference, therefore, directs that no Candidate shall be nominated until he has been heard by the Superintendent and by his Colleagues. Full opportunity should also be given to the members of the Quarterly Meeting to hear the Candidate before the nomination is made (1908, p. 354).

Qualifications of Candidates

1. Before any one can be received, even upon Trial, among us, it is necessary that he should have been a Member of the Society for some considerable time ; that he should have acted as a Local Preacher ; that he should be recommended by the Quarterly Meeting to the District Synod, and by that to the Conference ; and at the Conference in 1797 it was agreed that, before any Superintendent propose any Preacher to the Conference, as proper to be admitted on Trial, such Preacher must not only be approved of at the March Quarterly Meeting, but must have read and fully approved of the *Large Minutes* (1797, vol. i., p. 677). See pp. 261, 262.

N.B.—In 1905 the Conference declared that the *Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline* has taken the place of the *Large Minutes*. It directed that an Abridgement of the *Summary* should be prepared. Candidates

are required to read the Abridgement. See 1905, p. 367 ; 1906, p. 381.

2. No person shall in future be deemed eligible for examination at any District Synod, as a Candidate for reception, even on Trial, into our Itinerancy, unless his Superintendent be able to certify, on his behalf, that he has previously read with care our Standard Doctrinal Works ; viz. Mr. Wesley's *Notes on the New Testament*, and his first four volumes of *Sermons* (1825, vol. vi., pp. 64, 65).

N.B.—For Wesley's ' first four volumes of *Sermons*, ' see pp. 91, 736-47.

3. Whilst, as a general rule, Candidates should be fully accredited Local Preachers, yet the door should be left open for exceptional cases (1905, p. 368 ; 1906, p. 333).

4. No Candidate for the Ministry shall be received who does not possess a fair acquaintance with English Grammar, Orthography, Arithmetic, Geography, and History (1878, p. 187).

Residential Qualification

In any case in which a Candidate has not resided for two years continuously in the Circuit from which he is recommended, the Superintendent of that Circuit shall obtain a written Report concerning him from his former Superintendent or Superintendents, so as to cover the previous two years, and present the same to the March Quarterly Meeting, and to the District Synod (1827, vol. vi., p. 280 ; 1895, p. 344).

Superintendent Ministers' Sons

See p. 267.

Lay Agents

Any Lay Agent desiring to offer himself as a Candidate for the Ministry must be proposed in and approved by the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit of which he is a Member, the directions concerning the residential qualification of Candidates for the Ministry being strictly observed (1898, p. 360).

Candidates from the Welsh Districts

Candidates for the Ministry from the Welsh Districts who are able to preach in English, and who pass their Examinations in English, shall be regarded as eligible for the General Work (1888, p. 214).

For Regulations relating to married Candidates see pp. 268-70.

For further Regulations relating to Candidates for the Ministry see pp. 262-67.

Representatives to the District Synod

N.B.—In 1893 the Conference resolved that, at the elections in Quarterly Meetings of the Representatives to the District Synods, the usage of open voting may be departed from, and the elections decided by ballot, after nomination by the Lay members of the Meeting (1893, p. 319). See pp. 140, 141.

1. Each Circuit shall be represented in the Synod by its Circuit Stewards, or, in their unavoidable absence, by Substitutes, in accordance with the existing Regulation on that subject (1902, p. 111 ; 1903, pp. 107, 410).

2. The Circuit Stewards of each Circuit shall be called upon at the March Quarterly Meeting to declare their ability and willingness to attend the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District Synod in May, or the

contrary. If they, or either of them, shall declare inability or unwillingness to attend the said District Synod, the Quarterly Meeting shall have the right of electing by and from its own members either by open vote or by ballot, after nomination by the Lay members of the Meeting, a Representative or Representatives to supply the vacancy or vacancies so created (1877, vol. xx., p. 421 ; 1893, p. 319).

3. Circuit Stewards, who are otherwise members of the District Synod, shall not be at liberty to decline to attend the District Synod as Stewards, and then claim the right to sit and vote by virtue of any other office (1892, p. 311).

4. In addition to the Circuit Stewards, the March Quarterly Meeting of the Circuits may elect, as members of the Synod at its next meetings in May and September, Laymen, who are considered suitable on general grounds, in the following proportion, viz. (a) Circuits providing for one or two Ministers in Full Connexion shall elect one Representative ; (b) Circuits providing for more than two Ministers in Full Connexion may elect one additional Representative for each Minister in Full Connexion over the number of two (1892, p. 311 ; 1902, p. 111 ; 1903, pp. 107, 410 ; *Journal*, 1908 ; 1914, p. 439).

N.B.—The Conference declares that no one is eligible for a seat in a District Synod, or upon any Committee thereof, who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1892, p. 309).

Substitutes

1. The Circuit Quarterly Meeting in March shall be entitled to elect, provisionally, a Substitute for each of

the Circuit Stewards, whether he shall, or shall not, have declared his ability and willingness to attend the Annual Synod in May, also a Substitute for each of the Representatives, or for the Representative. Any Circuit Steward or Representative who shall find himself unable to attend the Synod shall inform the Superintendent, who shall thereupon invite the Substitute to be present (1897, pp. 340, 341).

2. The Conference resolves that Substitutes for Circuit Stewards duly elected at the March Quarterly Meeting shall be empowered, if need be, to attend the September as well as the May Synod (1908, p. 115).

Names to be sent to Chairman and Secretary of District

The Superintendents of Circuits are required to furnish the Chairman and Financial Secretary of the District . . . immediately after the March Quarterly Meeting, with the name and address of any person elected to attend the May District Synod in the place of any Circuit Steward declaring his inability to attend such Synod ; and also with the names and addresses of those persons, in addition to the Circuit Stewards, who have been elected as Representatives to the District Synods (1881, p. 302 ; 1892, p. 311 ; 1904, p. 406).

Grants from Home Mission and Connexional Funds

See pp. 147, 151-54.

Application to Increase or Reduce the Number of Ministers in the Circuit

See pp. 155-57, 383, 469, 591.

Alteration, Amalgamation, or Division of Circuits

1. No proposal for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit, or Circuits, shall be adopted by the Conference until that proposal has been submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, or Circuits, concerned, and to the Synods of the District, or Districts, to which the Circuit, or Circuits, may at the time belong.

2. In all ordinary cases the concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, or Circuits, concerned, and of the Synod of the District, or Districts, to which such Circuit, or Circuits, may belong, shall be required, before the Conference decides in favour of any proposal for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit, or Circuits.

3. Any District Synod shall, however,

- (i.) Have power, at its Annual Meeting, to suggest a proposal for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of any Circuit, or Circuits, within the District, and to send down that proposal for consideration by the next June Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, or Circuits, affected by it.
- (ii.) If the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, or Circuits, concerned, objects to the proposal, or desires that it should be modified, the objection or proposed modification shall be reported to the District Synod at its Meeting in the September following. If that District Synod, after considering the Resolution or Resolutions of the Quarterly Meeting, adheres to its proposal, with or without modification, for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of the Circuit, or Circuits, in question, and does not approve the modifica-

tion, if any, of its proposal, desired by the Quarterly Meeting, the District Synod shall remit its proposal to the Circuit, or Circuits, concerned, with a request that the proposal be reconsidered by the Quarterly Meeting.

- (iii.) The result of this reconsideration of the District Synod's proposal by the Quarterly Meeting shall be reported to the District Synod in the following May. If the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits concerned, or either of them, continue to object to the proposed alteration, amalgamation, or division, and the District Synod, after weighing the objections which may have been alleged against its proposal, adheres to it substantially, the Resolutions of the Quarterly Meetings and those of the District Synod shall be laid before the ensuing Conference in its Representative Session, which shall have power to approve or to reject the proposal of the District Synod for the alteration, amalgamation, or division of the Circuit, or Circuits, concerned ; and if it be approved by that Conference, it shall be carried out by the following Conference in its Pastoral Session.

4. Any District Synod shall have power to suggest a proposal for the alteration of any Circuit not within the boundary of the District, but adjacent thereto, in order to the adjustment of the boundaries of that Circuit in relation to those of some Circuit, or Circuits, within the District ; and to recommend the proposal to the Conference, subject to the following conditions :

- (i.) The District Synod shall send down its proposal
(a) to the District Synod of the District to which

the Circuit belongs, for consideration at its Meeting in the ensuing September, and (b) to the Circuit to which the proposal refers, for consideration as hereinafter provided.

- (ii.) The Synod of the District to which the Circuit belongs shall send to the Circuit a copy of any Resolution which it [the District Synod] adopts in September in reference to the proposal, with a request (a) that its Resolution, with the proposal, may be considered at one of the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuit prior to the month of May ensuing, and (b) that copies of any Resolutions which the Quarterly Meeting adopts may be sent (i.) to the District Synod which suggested the proposal, and (ii.) to the District Synod of the District to which the Circuit belongs, for consideration at their meeting in the month of May referred to.
- (iii.) So far as any Circuits within the boundary of the District may be affected by the proposal, the regulations of 3 shall take effect.
- (iv.) The Resolutions adopted by the two District Synods shall be forwarded to the ensuing Conference. If it be found necessary for the subject to come before the Conference for decision in its Representative Session, and it adopts a proposal for such an alteration of the Circuit as affects Stations, effect shall be given to its Resolution by the Conference of the following year in its Pastoral Session.

5. The Leaders' Meeting of any Society to which a proposed change, by alteration, amalgamation, or division in the Circuit of which it forms a part, refers, the

Trustees' Meeting of any Chapel in a Circuit to which a proposed change refers, and also the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit, shall have the right of Appeal to the Conference in its Representative Session, when the Resolution of a District Synod with respect to the proposed change is brought before it.

The Conference further resolves to rescind all previously existing Regulations which relate to the matters dealt with by the foregoing Resolutions, with the exception of the following :

- (i.) The Rule, adopted in 1809 : ' But the boundaries of existing Circuits may be regulated, and partial alterations made, without dividing them or making any new Circuit, and such arrangements the District Synods have authority to make, subject, however, to the decision of the Conference if there be any Appeal against them ' (vol. iii., p. 90).
- (ii.) The Regulation relating to Lay Representation in the Conference, (xv.) *Min. Conf.* 1881, p. 382 (1886, pp. 270-73).

Trust Debts

The Conference resolves that, before District Synods consent to the division of any Circuit, inquiry must be made whether due attention has been paid to satisfactory arrangements for the Trust Estates affected by the proposed division, especially in reference to any debts existing thereon (1870, vol. xviii., p. 154).

Circuit Boundaries

See p. 131.

Religious Instruction in Day Schools

1. Arrangements shall be made upon each Circuit Plan for the regular Visitation of each Day School in the Circuit, by one or more of the Ministers of the Circuit, for religious instruction and catechizing during the time shown to be allotted for such purposes by the Time Table of each School (1873, vol. xix., pp. 179, 180).

2. A General Report on the Religious Instruction given in the Day Schools, founded upon the Teachers' Reports from the several Schools, as well as upon the personal Visitation of the Ministers, shall be submitted to the March Quarterly Meetings, when the Returns as to the Day and Sunday Schools of the Circuit are presented (1889, p. 269). See pp. 232, 233.

Sunday and Day School Returns

1. The Local Sunday School Council shall consider at a meeting, to be held not later than January 31 of each year, the School Returns for the year ending December 31 previous, and immediately forward the schedule to the Circuit Secretary.

2. The Report of each School is to be submitted by the School Secretary to the Officers of the School, and countersigned by the School Superintendent before being sent to the Local Council (1904, p. 110; 1911, p. 422).

3. The Circuit Sunday School Council shall consider the Sunday School Schedules and report thereon to the Circuit March Quarterly Meeting (1911, p. 513).

4. Previously to the District Synod the Ministerial Secretary of the Circuit Sunday School Council shall make timely application to the School Secretaries of

each place in the Circuit where a Sunday or Week Day School is established, for the information required for the filling up of the Schedules provided by the General Committee ; and, after filling them up and laying them before the Quarterly Meeting, shall forward them as directed by the Conference (1873, vol. xix., p. 179 ; 1911, p. 513). See pp. 225, 238, 239.

5. The Statistics of the Day and Sunday Schools of each Circuit shall be read in the March Circuit Quarterly Meetings ; but if sufficient time be not then available for the discussion of the Statistics, and for inquiry into the state of the Schools, such discussion and inquiry shall take place in the June Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1889, p. 269).

Wesley Guild Returns

The Conference directs that the Circuit Guild Returns, which are prepared for the Synod, shall be submitted to and considered by the March Quarterly Meeting in the same way as other Departmental Returns (1907, p. 84).

Education Schedule

The Education Schedules, having been duly filled up and presented to the March Quarterly Meeting, shall be sent by the Superintendent to the District Sunday School Secretary as early as possible, and not later than April 10 in each year. See 1889, p. 269 ; also *Sunday School Schedule*.

Chapel Schedule

The Chapel Schedule, duly filled up from the Circuit Book, shall be forwarded every year, not later than

April 10, by each Superintendent, to the Secretary of the District Chapel Committee. See 1886, vol. xvi., p. 568 ; also *Regulations of Chapel Committee*. For the *Annual United Trustees' Meeting* see pp. 187, 335.

Temperance Schedule

1. The Temperance Schedule must also be sent to the Secretary of the District Temperance Committee not later than April 10.

2. Superintendents are directed to send to the Connexional Temperance Secretary, not later than the end of September, the name and address of the Circuit Temperance Secretary (1895, p. 305). See pp. 185, 186.

Circuit Foreign Missionary Committee

The Conference resolves that, in order to bring the affairs of the Foreign Missionary Society into closer relation to the Circuit and under more careful supervision, a Committee for each Circuit, with a Treasurer and two Secretaries (a Minister and a Layman) be appointed annually by the March Quarterly Meeting ; that such Committee shall consist of persons who are specially interested in the work of Foreign Missions ; that it shall have the entire management of all matters throughout the Circuit which affect the interests of the Missionary Society, and arrange for the collection of subscriptions, the circulation of literature, and the holding of Public Meetings, in any way it may deem the best ; and that it shall present a Report of its work, with an audit of the accounts, including the date and the amount of each remittance made by the Treasurer to the March Quarterly Meeting (1893, p. 319 ; 1909, p. 17).

N.B.—In any case in which the Circuit Quarterly Meeting is satisfied with the efficiency of any Branch or Local Committee, it may sanction its continuance (1895, p. 233). See pp. 187, 188.

Foreign Missions Accounts

1. The Conference directs that in every Circuit Quarterly Meeting inquiry be made from the Chair as to the amount received on behalf of Foreign Missions during the Quarter, and the payment thereof to the District Treasurer (1902, p. 14).

2. The Accounts of the several Local Branches of the Missionary Society, in each Circuit, duly audited by Auditors appointed by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting, shall be reported to the March Quarterly Meeting (see 1888, p. 221). See pp. 187, 188.

Report of Circuit Treasurer of Worn-out Ministers' Fund

N.B.—The Circuit Treasurer presents his Report to the March Quarterly Meeting.

Report of Army and Navy Work

See p. 146.

Memorials to Conference

N.B.—Notice of a Motion or Resolution intended as the basis of a Memorial to the Conference, with a copy in writing of such Motion or Resolution, may be given at the March Quarterly Meeting. See p. 183.

JUNE

Connexional Principle

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting affords a most valuable opportunity for bringing the Connexional principle before

the leading officials of our Circuits ; and the Conference recommends that at each June Quarterly Meeting this should be done, and a Report made of the Circuit Contributions to each Connexional Fund during the year (1889, p. 288). See pp. 298, 318.

N.B.—This Report may be conveniently made from the duplicate copy of the President's Circular retained by the Superintendent.

Connexional Funds

1. Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund.
2. Home Mission Fund.
3. Connexional Fund.
4. Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children.
5. Theological Institution Fund.
6. General Chapel Fund.
7. Education Fund.
8. Missionary Society.
9. London Mission and Extension Fund. See 1914, pp. 453-455.

Sanitary Condition of Ministers' Houses

N.B.—The attention of Circuit Stewards should be called to the Regulation of the Conference on this subject. See p. 159.

Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings to Conference

1. Should a majority of the June Quarterly Meeting in any Circuit be of opinion that it is desirable to address to the Conference a Memorial on any Connexional subject, and agree to do so, that Meeting itself, subject to

the Regulations which follow, shall have authority to adopt and transmit to the Conference such a Memorial. And at such Meeting any member thereof may propose, for consideration, the propriety of addressing a Memorial to the Conference (1852, vol. xii., p. 111).

2. Any member of the Quarterly Meeting intending to propose a Resolution, and bring the same before the June Quarterly Meeting as the basis of a Memorial to the Conference, shall give notice, with a copy in writing, of the particular Motion or Resolution which he intends to propose, either at the March Quarterly Meeting, or to the Superintendent Minister not less than seven days preceding the date of the June Quarterly Meeting ; and no proposal of which such notice has not been given shall be brought forward that year. But should the Quarterly Meeting adopt the substance or principle of a Resolution so brought forward, it may amend, as well as simply adopt or reject it (1852, vol. xii., p. 112 ; 1895, p. 367).

3. A Memorial, founded on such Motion or Resolution, if approved by a majority of the persons present, shall be signed by the Chairman of the Meeting ; and he shall add a footnote, stating the number of persons present, and also the number voting for and against the Memorial (1891, pp. 331, 362).

4. The Conference directs that Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings be forwarded by the Superintendents of Circuits to the Convener of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions, not later than ten days before the opening of the Conference (1889, p. 285).

5. All Memorials thus received by the Conference shall be referred to a Committee of its members, who shall carefully classify and consider the whole, and

present their Report thereon to the Conference (1852, vol. xii., p. 112).

6. The Quarterly Meeting has complete freedom to memorialize Conference. It is not competent for the Chairman of a June Quarterly Meeting to rule any Memorial out of order. The Conference reserves to itself alone the right to determine whether a Memorial contains a proposal of a revolutionary character, or subversive of the Doctrine or Discipline of Wesleyan Methodism (1852, vol. xii., p. 112 ; 1895, p. 368).

7. The Conference cannot sanction such Memorials as involve a direct interference on the part of one Circuit with the local affairs or proceedings of any other Circuit (1852, vol. xii., p. 112).

8. No Memorial can be received from the Quarterly Meeting of a Circuit except in manuscript (1874, vol. xix., p. 454).

9. The consideration and determination of all questions raised by Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings shall come within the province of the Conference when exclusively Ministerial, or when the Lay Representatives shall be present, according to the subject-matter thereof respectively. In all cases in which there may be any doubt as to the province to which a matter belongs, the President shall decide (1877, vol. xx., p. 424). See pp. 565-67.

Day and Sunday School Statistics

See pp. 178, 179.

Annual Circuit Meeting of Class Leaders

See p. 186.

SEPTEMBER**New Rules for the Societies at Large**

See p. 21.

Payment of Ministers' Allowances

The Conference recommends that, as far as possible, there should be throughout the Connexion a uniform method in the payment of Ministers' Allowances; viz. that at the September Quarterly Meeting a full quarter's Allowance should be paid to each newly-appointed Minister (1894, p. 324).

Worn-out Ministers' Fund

1. In every Circuit, at the September Quarterly Meeting, a Circuit Treasurer for the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund shall be appointed (1869, vol. xvii., p. 626).

2. The Conference resolves that in order to maintain and, if possible, increase the amount of subscriptions to the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, now that the collection is taken out of the Classes, the offices of Circuit and District Treasurers shall be continued, and that District Treasurers shall continue to be members of the District Synods, and that all moneys be remitted through the Circuit and District Treasurers (1905, pp. 54, 55; 1906, p. 58).

Circuit Temperance Secretaries

The Conference recommends the appointment of a Circuit Temperance Secretary in every Circuit; and the Superintendents are directed to send the names and addresses of such Secretaries to the Secretary of the Con-

nexional Temperance Committee of the Conference not later than the end of September ; also, by the same date, the names and addresses of all the Secretaries of Bands of Hope and Temperance Societies in their respective Circuits (1894, p. 304 ; 1907, p. 103).

Circuit Sunday School Council

N.B.—A Ministerial Secretary is to be appointed by the September Quarterly Meeting (1911, p. 513). See p. 225.

Annual Circuit Meeting of Class Leaders

The Meeting shall be held annually at a time to be fixed by the September, or, where desirable, by the June Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting shall also appoint a Circuit Secretary (1909, p. 93). See p. 81.

DECEMBER

Appointment of Circuit Stewards

Circuit Stewards are to be appointed at a Quarterly Meeting ; the nomination being with the Superintendent, and the approval or disapproval with the Meeting.

Circuit Stewards are members of the Financial District Synod ; and have also a right to attend the Annual Meeting of the District Synod during the transaction of certain parts of its business (1869, vol. xvii., p. 624).

See *Stewards*, pp. 64, 65 ; also *Representatives to the District Synod*, pp. 171-72. For *Substitutes*, see p. 173.

Circuit Stewards and Trust Accounts

N.B.—The Trust Accounts of Chapels settled on the Model Deed are to be audited on a day to be appointed by the Superintendent Minister, or with his

concurrence, by the Superintendent and the Circuit Steward or Circuit Stewards, if more than one, for the time being, of the Circuit in which the Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, is situated, at a Meeting convened for that purpose: fourteen days' notice of the Meeting to be given to the Circuit Stewards or Circuit Steward.

See *Chapel Model Deed*, p. 720.

Names to be sent to Chairman and Financial Secretary of District

The Superintendents of Circuits are required to furnish the Chairman and the Financial Secretary of the District with the names and addresses of the Circuit Stewards immediately after the December Quarterly Meeting (1871, vol. xviii., p. 402 ; 1904, p. 406).

Annual United Trustees' Meeting

A United Meeting of the Treasurers and Trustees of the several Trust Estates shall be annually held in every Circuit on some day to be fixed at the December Quarterly Meeting, at which Trustees' Meeting an Abstract of the several Trustees' accounts shall be examined, and entered into a Circuit Book, to be carefully kept by a Secretary appointed for the purpose at the same Quarterly Meeting (1866, vol. xvi., p. 568).

For *Circuit Chapels' Schedule* see pp. 179, 180.

Foreign Missions

1. In every Circuit where separate Committees for the several Local Branches are not otherwise appointed, such separate Committees shall be annually appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting.

2. The accounts of every branch shall be closed not later than January 24 in each year, and audited during

the first week in February by Auditors to be appointed by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting ; and from the accounts so audited the usual Schedule shall be prepared and immediately forwarded to the District Treasurer.

3. Each Branch Committee shall be responsible for securing the audit of its own accounts, and the Secretary of the Circuit Committee shall be responsible for filling up and forwarding the Circuit Schedule. Where no Circuit Committee exists, a Secretary shall be appointed for the purpose by the preceding December Quarterly Meeting (1888, p. 221).

4. In no Circuit shall the Missionary Accounts for the year be closed until they have been passed by the Local or Circuit Missionary Committee, and duly signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit (1898, p. 361).

For *Circuit Missionary Committee* see pp. 180, 181.

Juvenile Associations

N.B.—When one-third of the amount collected by Juvenile Associations is retained in the Circuit, to be expended in support of local movements of a directly Home Missionary character, the Conference has determined that the money so retained shall be expended 'under the direction of the Superintendent and of a Committee appointed by the December Quarterly Meeting' ; and that a Report be presented to the District Synod in May (1877, vol. xx., p. 398 ; 1885, p. 195).

See *Juvenile Home and Foreign Missionary Associations*, pp. 162, 163.

Representatives to Circuit Sunday School Council

N.B.—Seven Representatives are to be elected by the December Circuit Quarterly Meeting, one of whom

shall be a Circuit Steward, and one of whom shall be the Circuit Lay Education Secretary (1911, p. 513). See p. 224.

Secretary of Circuit Quarterly Meeting

The Secretary of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting must be chosen from among the members of that Meeting (1901, p. 532).

III. RELATING TO THE SPECIAL CIRCUIT MEETING

Considering that one of the Regulations of 1835 provides that a Superintendent may appeal from the majority of a Leaders' Meeting to a Minor District Synod, when 'complaining of any Leaders' Meeting for refusing to act its constitutional part, or for acting it factiously or in contradiction to Law and Evidence, in the trial of an accused Member' or Local Officer, or for giving 'a verdict notoriously inconsistent with the facts proved, and with the plain and obvious meaning, and the general or specific regulations, of the laws of God, or of our own Body, as applicable to these facts, or as even, in certain conceivable cases, refusing to give any verdict at all,'—thereby 'preventing, by an abuse of their constitutional functions, the exercise of that discipline which Christ has commanded, and for which He has made the Ministers of His Church responsible to Himself'; . . . the Conference, after long and careful deliberation, agrees that, instead of such appeal by the Superintendent to a Minor District Synod, and before an appeal be made to the Pastorate of the District, a second trial shall take place within the Circuit. And, while objecting, on principle, to invest the Quarterly

Meeting with the power of final decision in cases of discipline, the Conference enacts :

1. When such a case as the preceding paragraph describes shall occur, the Superintendent shall be authorized to require a re-hearing by a Special Circuit Meeting, consisting of not more than twelve Lay members of the Quarterly Meeting, to be chosen for the occasion by that Meeting, in such manner as it may deem proper.

2. At such Special Circuit Meeting the Chairman of the District shall preside ; or, in case of unavoidable absence, shall appoint some other Minister of the District to preside in his place.

3. The Meeting thus constituted shall have full power to re-hear the case.

4. If, on such re-hearing, the accused party (whether a Leader, Local Preacher, Trustee, or other Local Officer, or Member of Society without any office) be found guilty by the verdict of the Special Circuit Meeting, the case shall then be left in the hands of the Pastorate ; and the Superintendent be empowered, after advising with the Chairman and his own Colleagues, to remove the party so convicted from the Society, or to administer any other measure of discipline which may be deemed sufficient.

5. If the party so tried by the Special Circuit Meeting be dissatisfied with the sentence of the Superintendent, he shall have the right to appeal, first, to the Annual District Synod, and afterwards, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference.

6. The Leaders' Meeting and the Special Circuit Meeting for re-hearing are entitled to declare, by their verdict, whether the facts alleged are, or are not, proved to their satisfaction, and whether, in their opinion, those

facts are violations 'of the laws of God, or of our own Body.' And the verdict of a Meeting for re-hearing is not to be reversed, unless a Special District Synod or the Conference interpose, and deem that justice requires such reversal.

7. In most instances it is highly probable that a verdict which, from any cause, may have been given by a Leaders' Meeting, 'in contradiction to Law and Evidence,' will, on a re-hearing of the case by a Special Circuit Meeting, appointed by the Quarterly Meeting, be corrected. But should the result unhappily show that the spirit of faction, or any other misleading influence, so extensively prevails in the Circuit as to prevent the ordinary administration of godly discipline, in such case it is to be understood that the Superintendent retains the right of appeal to the collective Pastorate of the District, and that the District Synod may then interpose by virtue of the powers with which it was originally invested in 1791, and which from that time it has exercised in great emergencies, and may adopt such measures (disciplinary or otherwise) as it may deem necessary to meet the 'critical case' in question, and to maintain discipline and order in the disturbed Circuit 'till the meeting of the next Conference, when the Chairman of the Synod shall lay the Minutes of its proceedings before the Conference' (see *Minutes*, 1791, vol. i., p. 249).

8. Should the Quarterly Meeting refuse to appoint a Special Meeting to re-hear the case, or should the persons appointed refuse to give any verdict, the Superintendent may at once appeal, in the usual form, to the District Synod.

9. Any Member or Local Officer of the Society who, by the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting, is found guilty of

factionous conduct, may (as well as the Superintendent) claim a re-hearing by such Special Circuit Meeting, if he give notice of his wish to do so within the seven days which, according to Rule (*Minutes*, 1835, vol. vii., p. 581), are to intervene before the sentence be pronounced. If such notice be given, the Superintendent shall be required to take the necessary steps for the appointment of a Special Circuit Meeting, and the sentence shall be postponed till after that Meeting shall have given its verdict. Should the Special Circuit Meeting confirm the previous verdict of the Leaders' Meeting, and a sentence of expulsion be consequently pronounced by the Superintendent (after consulting with the Chairman of the District and his own Colleagues), the excluded party may appeal against the sentence to the Annual District Synod, and, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference. See p. 323.

10. Whether the party objecting to a verdict of a Leaders' Meeting be the Superintendent or the person accused, the application of the provision for a re-hearing by a Special Circuit Meeting is to be strictly limited to such cases of factionous conduct as 'may possibly arise in seasons of peculiar excitement' (*Minutes*, 1835, vol. vii., p. 582), and as are described in the preamble of this section. And, further, the same provision, while modifying the Superintendent's privilege of calling for the interposition of the District Pastorate, in such cases as hereinbefore specified, is not to be understood as at all affecting the visitatorial power of the Chairman of the District, and the constitutional right of the District Synod to interpose its authority for the due maintenance of our discipline in a disturbed Society or Circuit. On the contrary, such power and right remain entire, in full

and undiminished force, notwithstanding anything contained in these Regulations.

N.B.—The Regulation by which the Conference, in 1835, gave to a Member or Local Officer the right of appeal, in ordinary cases, to a Minor District Synod, against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Superintendent, after the verdict of a Leaders' Meeting, remains unaltered by this provision for extraordinary cases (1852, vol. xii., pp. 112-114).

For *Minor District Synod* see pp. 514-16.

IV. RELATING TO OTHER FORMAL SOCIETY AND CIRCUIT MEETINGS

1. As the Leaders' Meeting is the proper Meeting for the Society, and the Quarterly Meeting for the Circuit, we think that other formal Meetings, in general, would be contrary to the Methodist economy, and very prejudicial in their consequences. But,

2. In order to be as tender as possible, consistently with what we believe to be essential to the welfare of our Societies, we allow that other formal Meetings may be held, if they first receive the approbation of the Superintendent and the Leaders' or Quarterly Meeting; provided also, that the Superintendent, if he please, be present at every such Meeting (1797, vol. i., p. 392).

See Standing Order on *Attendance of Ministers at Official Meetings*, p. 70. See also 1835, pp. 586-90.

V. RELATING TO SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND DAY SCHOOLS

Schools on Trust Property

1. If a Sunday School is to be connected with the Chapel, the Chapel Building Committee must be assured

that it will be a Methodist School, and conducted according to the General Rules and recommendations of our Connexion, in reference to such Institutions (1826, vol. vi., p. 162).

2. Where separate buildings shall be erected for Sunday Schools by the contributions or influence of our Members and friends, they shall be legally secured for the purposes which they are intended to serve. And we recommend, as the best general method of accomplishing this object, that the Trustees of the nearest Chapel in the Circuit to which the School may belong shall also be constituted the Trustees for the School, under suitable provisions and regulations. This plan, without at all interfering with the internal management of the School on the principles and Rules above mentioned, would sufficiently connect our Schools with our Chapels; and would afford to the Trustees of Chapels that safeguard against possible injury to their Trust concerns, which their pecuniary liabilities give them a just right to expect from their Christian brethren of the same community (1827, vol. vi., p. 289). See pp. 107, 108.

3. The Conference directs all Trustees who are contemplating the erection or alteration of premises intended for Sunday School work, to communicate with the Connexional Sunday School Department before the plans are finally accepted, and before they are submitted to the District Chapel Committee, for the purpose of receiving counsel as to their projected undertakings, and the adaptation of the premises to the system of instruction designed to be adopted (1874, vol. xix., pp. 440, 441; 1912, pp. 117, 441).

4. The Superintendents of Circuits, and Chairmen of Districts, are required, before they sanction any ap-

plication for the relief of distressed Chapels, to inquire whether the said Chapels, or any part of the Trust Premises, be occupied as a Sunday School ; and if so, whether a fair and reasonable contribution be paid to the Trustees in consideration of such occupation (1826, vol. vi., p. 160 ; 1827, vol. vi., p. 272).

For Entertainments on Trust Premises see pp. 56-59.

For Orthodoxy of Sunday School Officers and Teachers see p. 203.

Importance of Sunday Schools

The Conference takes this opportunity of repeating its deep and steadfast conviction that well-conducted Sunday Schools are of the greatest utility and importance, and deserve the zealous support of our Preachers and people. The Preachers, in particular, are directed to afford to the Methodist Sunday Schools established in their respective Circuits, and managed in conformity to our authorized principles, all possible countenance and assistance, by attending their Committees, by occasionally visiting the Schools, by giving counsel and advice to the Teachers, and by recommending the Institutions to the increasing liberality of our Societies and Congregations. Methodist Sunday Schools, wisely and Scripturally regulated, constitute a highly interesting and beneficial department of that great work which God has been pleased to confide to our pastoral care ; and ought, therefore, to command the attention, protection, and co-operation of every Methodist Preacher (1826, vol. vi., p. 170).

PRINCIPLES ON WHICH WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOLS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED

General Principles

1. Sunday Schools supported, wholly or principally, by the contributions, labours, and influence of our Body, and sanctioned by our Preachers, shall be denominated Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools ; in order that the Connexion and the Public may possess, in the very name and title of the Institutions, the means of ascertaining the principles on which they profess to be conducted, and a pledge and security for the maintenance of those principles, under every change of local management ; and in order, also, that parents, not connected with our Societies and Congregations, who shall choose to send their children to our Schools, may be fully apprised of the nature and tendency of the instruction and discipline there administered (1827, vol. vi., p. 286).

2. All new Sunday Schools which may hereafter be established in our Connexion, and which shall have the support and sanction of our Preachers, or the aid of regular Collections in our Chapels, shall be established in conformity to the principles now explicitly adopted by the Conference ; and the Rules and Recommendations hereinbefore contained (subject to such modification on minor points, not interfering with the fundamental principles of this Plan, as further consideration and experience may suggest, or as local peculiarities may render necessary), shall be considered as the outline of that approved and authorized system by which all new Institutions among us are to be governed (1827, vol. vi., p. 290).

3. The General Principles recommended by the Conference of 1827, for the regulation of Wesleyan Methodist Sunday Schools, shall form the permanent basis for the management of such Schools (1873, vol. xix., pp. 173, 174; 1875, vol. xix., pp. 695, 696). For a full statement of these General Principles see 1827, vol. vi., pp. 284-6.

The Management of Sunday Schools

N.B.—I. In 1827 the Conference drew up an 'outline of General Rules with a direct reference to the circumstances of Methodist Sunday Schools' (1827, vol. vi., pp. 286-91). These General Rules were subsequently revised in 1868, 1873, 1874, and 1875. They were commended to the adoption of the Committees of our Sunday Schools throughout the Connexion. See 1873, vol. xix., pp. 173-8; 1874, vol. xix., p. 443; 1875, vol. xix., pp. 695, 696. In 1911 the Conference adopted a 'Scheme for Representation by Election in Sunday School Affairs' which has now the force of law. This Scheme modifies in some particulars the 'General Rules' previously existing, but it does not affect the 'General Principles' on which the Schools are to be conducted. In addition, it provides that, in the matter of the Local Sunday School Council, where the Sunday School is already satisfactorily organized an alternative form of constitution of the Local Council shall be recognized if consisting of 'the Teachers' Meeting and Sunday School Committee as recommended by the Conference of 1827 and revised in 1868, 1873, 1874, 1875, and as at present existing,' or of the Teachers' Meeting 'as at present existing where no Sunday School Committee exists' (1911, pp. 512, 513).

2. The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday

School (London: J. W. Butcher, 2 and 3 Ludgate Circus Buildings, Farringdon Street, E.C.) should be consulted for full information concerning Sunday School affairs.

Conduct and Object of Sunday Schools

1. The School shall be conducted in distinct and avowed connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Society ; and shall, in every practicable way, be worked in harmony with its arrangements, and with a view to its increase and benefit.

2. Its main object shall be to instruct and train scholars in ' the doctrines, privileges, and duties of the Christian religion,' and only so much secular teaching as is necessary to secure this end shall be given in it on the Sabbath day. The Holy Scriptures and the Catechisms of the Wesleyan Methodists shall be used as the means of such instruction and training (1873, vol. xix., p. 174). See p. 209.

General Management

The general management shall be entrusted to the Local Sunday School Council, which has complete oversight and management of the Sunday School interests, taking up all the functions of the Teachers' Meeting and Sunday School Committee, as hitherto constituted (1873, vol. xix., p. 175 ; 1911, p. 512).

Constitution and Functions of Local Sunday School Councils

See pp. 221-24.

Alternative Form of Constitution of Local Sunday School Councils

See pp. 222, 223.

N.B.—Where the alternative form of the Local Sunday School Council is continued the following regulations must be observed :

1. The Superintendent Minister of the Circuit shall preside in the Annual Meeting ; also in all Meetings of the Committee and in all Meetings of the Teachers. If either at an Annual Meeting or at a Meeting of the Committee no Minister is present, the Meeting shall appoint one of the Officers of the Institution to act as its Chairman. If at any Teachers' Meeting no Minister is present one of the Superintendents of the School shall preside (1868, vol. xvii., p. 384 ; 1873, vol. xix., p. 175 ; 1874, vol. xix., p. 443).

2. The general management shall be entrusted to a Committee consisting :

(1) Of all the Ministers of the Circuit.

(2) Of the Treasurer, the General Secretary, and the Superintendents of the School, appointed as hereinafter mentioned.

3. Of six, nine, or more persons, to be chosen as follows, viz. :

One-third, being Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, by the Leaders' Meeting, in the month of December.

One-third, being Teachers, Secretaries, or Librarians, who are also Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, by a General Teachers' Meeting, in the month of December.

One-third by the Committee for the time being, at their last Meeting in December, from members of the

Congregation or Subscribers to the School, who, if not Members of Society, are nevertheless believed to be cordially attached to the principles and polity of Wesleyan Methodism.

4. The Annual Meeting of the Committee and Subscribers, of which due notice shall be given by the General Secretary, shall be held as early as convenient in the month of January, to receive the financial Report and the lists of the persons chosen, in the manner above described, to be members of the Committee for the ensuing year ; and to appoint a Treasurer and Auditors for the ensuing year.

N.B.—(1) Subscribers within the meaning of this Rule are those persons, not under twenty-one years of age, who contribute annually 5s. or upwards towards the support of the School.

(2) Those Teachers who have attained the age of twenty-one, and have been fully received not less than one year, shall be considered as having a right to attend, and take part with the Subscribers in the proceedings of the Annual Meeting.

(3) When it is deemed necessary, in addition to the Annual Meeting, a Public Meeting, to promote the interests of the School and of Christian education generally, may be held at any time of the year most convenient.

5. The Committee shall meet at least once a quarter, and oftener if required, with the concurrence of the Superintendent of the Circuit ; and five shall form a quorum for the transaction of business.

6. Teachers may be received on Trial by the Superintendent of the School ; and, after a probation of three months, shall be nominated by him at a regular Teachers'

Meeting, and elected by the Meeting ; subject, however, to the approbation of the Committee.

7. A united Meeting of the Committee and Teachers shall be held once in every six months, or oftener if need be, on some suitable week-day evening, expressly for the recognition of newly appointed Teachers ; when the Chairman shall present the Rules, and give appropriate advice and encouragement to the Teachers thus recognized.

8. Teachers' Meetings for inquiry, consultation, and prayer shall be held quarterly, previously to the ordinary Meetings of the Committee.

9. In the selection of Teachers for the elder classes, special attention shall be paid to their Christian experience, and those only shall be so employed who are able to teach the scholars, clearly and fully, what they must do to be saved.

10. No person shall be continued as an Officer or Teacher who shall at any time be declared, by the Committee or the Leaders' Meeting, unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part in the Christian education of the young (1873, vol. xix., pp. 174-6).

11. The Library, together with the School furniture, shall be the property of the Committee, without whose approval no book shall be introduced ; and, wherever practicable, the distribution of books shall take place on some week-day evening, so as not to occasion, either to the Librarian or to the readers, an unnecessary and injurious diversion of any portion of the Lord's Day from employments directly spiritual (1873, vol. xix., pp. 174-6).

N.B.—For election of a Lay Representative or

Representatives to the Circuit Sunday School Council, see pp. 223, 224.

Officers of the Sunday School

The Officers of the School shall be as follows, viz. :

1. A Treasurer.
2. A General Secretary, one or more Superintendents, and one or more Visitors.
3. One or more School Secretaries, and a Librarian.

A Superintendent and Secretary of the Band of Hope, the General Secretary of the Wesley Guild, an Officer of any Company of the Boys' Brigade, Boys' or Girls' Life Brigade, or of any organization directly connected with the Sunday School which may be approved by the Department shall be counted as an Officer of the School (1873, vol. xix., p. 175; 1911, p. 511). See p. 221.

N.B.—Any organization is 'directly connected' with the Sunday School when it is controlled by the Local Sunday School Council and its Officers and Committee, if any, are appointed at the Annual Meeting of the Local Council. The Wesley Guild, however, is not under the control of the Local Sunday School Council. See *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, p. 15 note.

Church Membership of Officers and Teachers

In all new appointments those who are appointed to the office of Superintendent must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and it is desirable that other Officers and Teachers should also be Members (1911, p. 511).

N.B.—All appointments are made annually. One who is not a Member of the Church can only be appointed to the office of Superintendent if he has held that office for the previous year. See *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, p. 16 note.

Orthodoxy of Officers and Teachers

See pp. 201, 713, 714.

The Chapel Model Deed provides that in any School held in a building settled on the trusts of the Chapel Model Deed, the teaching is always subject to the clause in the Deed respecting Doctrine; and the Conference has specifically directed that no person shall be continued as an Officer or Teacher who shall at any time be declared by the Local Sunday School Council, or the Leaders' Meeting, unfit, in respect of general character or of religious opinions, for the office he sustains, or for taking part in the Christian education of the young (1827, vol. vi., pp. 287, 288; 1873, vol. xix., p. 176; 1911, pp. 421, 422; 1912, pp. 439, 440).

Superintendents and Leaders' and Circuit Quarterly Meetings

1. The Chief or General Superintendent of each Sunday School shall be *ex officio* a member of the Leaders' Meeting of that Society with which the Sunday School is connected, he being a Member of Society and not a member of any other Leaders' Meeting (1913, p. 61).

2. No one who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of at least three years' continuous

standing shall be *ex officio*, or eligible to be elected as a Representative from a Sunday School to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting.

3. The Chief or General Superintendent of every Sunday School shall be a member, *ex officio*, of the Quarterly Meeting (1914, p. 446).

Superintendents and Circuit Sunday School Councils

The Superintendents and Secretaries are *ex officio* members of the Circuit Sunday School Council (1911, p. 512).

Regulations Relating to the Work of Superintendents

1. The Superintendents are responsible for opening and closing the School with singing and prayer, for the admission of Scholars and the arrangement of Classes and Teachers, and for the internal management of the School (1873, vol. xix., p. 177).

N.B.—*The Methodist Sunday School Hymnal*, compiled by the Sunday School Department by the direction of the Conference, is now the Connexional Sunday School Hymn-Book (1908, p. 76; 1911, p. 508).

2. Neither the art of writing, nor any branch of merely secular knowledge, shall be taught on the Lord's Day (1827, vol. vi., p. 288; 1873, vol. xix., p. 176).

3. No sales of books, or of other articles used in the School, shall be allowed on the Sabbath, but suitable facilities for the supply of the scholars shall be provided on week-days (1827, vol. vi., p. 299; 1873, vol. xix., p. 176).

Public Worship

1. All the scholars shall be trained to regular attendance on Public Worship, at least once on the Lord's Day. As many as can be accommodated shall attend the Chapel every forenoon; and the elder scholars, especially, shall be encouraged to attend the evening service also.

We earnestly entreat our friends who may be concerned in the future erection or enlargement of Chapels to have this object in view, as one of unspeakable importance to the interests of religion and our country; and to include in their plans the provision of large and convenient accommodation, not only for the adult poor, but for their children also (1827, vol. vi., p. 289; 1873, vol. xix., p. 176).

2. The Conference resolves that, while it may be well to provide a separate service for very young children, it is most undesirable that scholars of eight years of age and upwards should be kept from the services in the Chapels (1885, p. 245).

3. The Conference regards with the deepest concern the continued increase in the number of Sunday Schools the scholars of which do not regularly attend Public Worship. The Conference attaches the greatest importance to the necessity of the scholars being trained in the habit of attending the House of God, and again directs the Council of the Sunday School Department to give the subject its most serious attention during the year. . . . The Conference also commends the subject to the earnest consideration of the District Sunday School Council (1909, p. 115; 1910, p. 113).

4. The Conference resolves that it be an instruction to every Sunday School Council to take steps to ensure

that our scholars are regularly taken to the worship of the House of God (1912, p. 77).

5. The Conference records its approval of the League of Young Worshipers, and commends it to our Sunday School Authorities and to our Leaders' Meetings (1913, p. 98).

Special Classes for Scholars

Wherever it is practicable, a Select Class, or Classes, of those scholars who are seriously disposed shall be formed, for special religious instruction and prayer, and be met by pious Teachers in separate class-rooms, towards the close of the Sunday afternoon, or on some convenient week-night (1873, vol. xix., pp. 176, 177). See *Junior Society Classes*, pp. 59-62.

School Returns

The Local Sunday School Council shall consider, at a Meeting to be held not later than January 31 of each year, the School Returns for the year ending December 31 previous, and immediately forward the Schedule to the Circuit Secretary. The Report on each School shall be submitted by the School Secretary to the Officers of the School and countersigned by the School Superintendent before being sent to the Local Council (1904, p. 110; 1911, p. 512).

Day of Special Prayer

The Conference directs the observance of the third Sunday in October in each year as a day of Special Prayer on behalf of Sunday Schools and young people, and that our Ministers and Local Preachers be asked to

co-operate with the Sunday School Authorities in bringing before young people the necessity of immediate decision (1878, p. 242 ; 1908, p. 77).

The Conference recommends that, as heretofore, but in greater measure, use be made of Children's Sunday as an opportunity for winning for Christ all children within our reach (1902, p. 352).

N.B.—For suggestions issued by order of the Conference in 1913 for the conduct of services on the third Sunday of October, see *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, pp. 27-30.

Intemperance

The Conference recommends that, on the second Sunday of November in each year, special reference shall be made in . . . all our Sunday Schools to the appalling extent and dire results of Intemperance, and to the many advantages and blessings of Total Abstinence (1887, p. 254 ; 1908, p. 77).

Contributions to Trust Funds

See p. 118.

Adult Bible Classes

See p. 78.

Closing of Sunday Schools

The Conference directs that the District Synod Sunday School Committee shall be consulted before a Sunday School is closed (1894, p. 324).

Entertainments on Trust Premises

See pp. 56, 57.

The Library

Every School should, if possible, have a Library for the use of the Officers and Teachers and such scholars as may be deemed worthy of that privilege (1827, vol. vi., pp. 288, 289 ; 1873, vol. xix., p. 178).

The Organized School

N.B.—1. For particulars concerning the grading of the Sunday School into Departments and Classes, the School Staff, and other matters connected with the management of Sunday Schools, *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School* should be consulted.

2. For Scheme for Representation by election in Sunday School affairs see pp. 220-28.

3. For Representation of Sunday Schools in Circuit Quarterly Meetings see pp. 216, 217.

Teachers

1. The Teachers, wherever practicable, shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society ; but, if not, they must at least be regular attendants at the Chapel, of good moral character, heartily attached to the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism, and willing to observe the Rules of the School. See pp. 221, 222.

2. They may be received on Trial by the Superintendent of the School ; and, after a probation of three months, shall be nominated by him at the Local Sunday School Council and elected by the Council (1873, vol. xix., p. 175 ; 1911, p. 512).

3. In the selection of Teachers for the elder classes special attention shall be paid to their Christian experience, and those only shall be so employed who are able to

teach the scholars, clearly and fully, ' what they must do to be saved ' (1827, vol. vi., p. 288 ; 1873, vol. xix., pp. 175, 176).

Character of the Teaching

1. The elementary books employed in teaching even the younger children shall be such as contain the largest portion of Scriptural instruction, and the Holy Scriptures shall be regularly used by all who are sufficiently advanced (1827, vol. vi., p. 288 ; 1873, vol. xix., p. 176).

2. The Conference attaches the utmost importance to doctrinal teaching in Sunday Schools by means of Catechetical instruction, and directs that Ministers shall give special attention to this subject. Superintendents and Teachers are also urgently and affectionately recommended to do their utmost to promote the use of our own Catechisms in our Sunday Schools (1827, vol. vi., p. 288 ; 1873, vol. xix., p. 176 ; 1890, p. 279).

3. The Conference deeply regrets to find that our Catechism is not taught in a large number of our Sunday Schools, and urges that special attention be directed to this matter by the Local Sunday School Councils concerned (1896, p. 230).

4. The Conference recommends the Superintendents of Circuits, wherever they may find it practicable, to make arrangements, in conjunction with the Local Sunday School Council, for the Annual Public Examination in the Catechisms of the children of our Sunday Schools, and that such Examination shall, where possible, be held in the Chapels (1882, pp. 224, 225).

Classes for Sunday School Teachers

The Conference recommends that in each Circuit, as far as possible, a Class or Classes should be formed,

either by some suitable Minister or Layman, for the instruction of Sunday School Teachers in their important work (1906, p. 106).

Substitutes for Teachers

A Teacher, when prevented from attending the School, should either provide a proper substitute or give the Superintendents timely notice of his intended absence (1873, vol. xix., p. 177).

Absentee Scholars

Definite arrangements should be made for the visitation of absentee scholars, either by the Teachers themselves or by a Visitor or Visitors duly appointed (1873, vol. xix., p. 177).

Scholars' Removal Notes

The Conference recommends that, with a view of preventing, as far as possible, the loss of scholars by removal, 'Scholars' Removal Notes' be used in all our Schools; and requests the Council of the Sunday School Department to supply, free of cost, in the first instance, a specimen Book of Removal Notes to the Officers for their use, and to intimate the willingness of the Department to assist in any case of difficulty (1907, p. 97).

For Sunday School Department see pp. 217-20.

BANDS OF HOPE

The Conference sanctions the formation of Bands of Hope in connexion with Sunday Schools, and under the supervision of the Ministers of the Circuit and the Local Sunday School Councils; and directs that the number

of such Bands of Hope shall be annually reported to the Conference (1875, vol. xix., p. 709).

Objects

Bands of Hope are intended to educate the young in the principles and practice of sobriety. . . .

Among the kindred objects, designed to be secured by Bands of Hope, are—The regular attendance of our young people upon public worship ; the inculcation of the moral duties of industry, honesty, truthfulness, cleanliness, kindness ; the discouragement of the practice of smoking ; and the creation of disgust for all bad or offensive habits—Sabbath-breaking, swearing, gambling, and such like. . . . The Band of Hope . . . is adapted to be an important auxiliary to the Sunday School and the Church (1877, vol. xx., p. 515).

Preliminary Steps in Forming a Band of Hope

It is the duty of the promoters of this movement—

First—To obtain the sanction of the Superintendent of the Circuit.

Secondly—To bring the proposal to establish a Band of Hope before the Local Sunday School Council, so that it may be worked in harmony with the other arrangements of the School, and that its efficiency and usefulness may be secured.

Thirdly—To make application, through the Superintendent Minister, for the use of a room, in which the Meetings of the Band of Hope may be held (1877, vol. xx., p. 516).

General Rules

The following Regulations are proposed as the basis of Management for each Band of Hope :

1. It shall be conducted in distinct and avowed connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the increase and welfare of which it shall seek to promote in every practicable way.

2. The general management shall be entrusted to a Committee, consisting of :

(1) All the Ministers of the Circuit.

(2) A Treasurer.

(3) A Superintendent, Secretary, and Registrar, who shall be Members of Society, and, by preference, Officers or Teachers in the Sunday School.

(4) Six or more persons, of whom it is desirable that one-half, at least, should be abstainers.

The Officers and Committee to be elected annually by the Local Sunday School Council (1877, vol. xx., p. 516 ; 1911, p. 512).

N.B.—The Committee to meet once a quarter, or oftener if necessary, for the transaction of business.

3. The Band of Hope Meeting shall be held regularly, and begin and end promptly at the time announced, always with singing and prayer. No ordinary Meeting shall be prolonged beyond an hour and a quarter.

4. The speakers at such Meeting shall be connected with our own, or some other branch of the Christian Church.

5. The following shall be the form of *Declaration* adopted: 'I agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages.'

6. Children above the age of seven years shall be eligible as members ; children under that age may be enrolled as Candidates without making the Declaration (1877, vol. xx., pp. 516, 517).

Officers

1. *President*.—The Superintendent of the Circuit, or one of his Colleagues, shall be, *ex officio*, President; but it may be desirable to elect a Conductor, whose duty it shall be to attend every meeting, arrange the programme, receive the speakers, and in other ways see that the business of each Meeting is properly carried out.

N.B.—It is understood that the arrangement of the programme, and all the other details of every Meeting, are under the control of the Superintendent of the Circuit, and the Committee.

2. *Secretary*.—The Secretary shall take Minutes at Committee Meetings, prepare Reports, conduct correspondence, and make arrangements for Meetings.

N.B.—See p. 186.

3. *Registrar*.—The Registrar shall keep account of Officers and members of the Band of Hope, register admissions and attendances, record reasons for absence and withdrawal, fill up the Declaration Cards, and supply Tickets of membership.

In many places it may be necessary that the offices of Secretary and Registrar should be held by the same person (1877, vol. xx., p. 517).

N.B.—Admission Books and Attendance Registers may be obtained from the Wesleyan Conference Office and the Wesleyan Sunday School Department.

Membership

Any child above seven years of age desiring to become a member, whose parents do not object, shall write his or her name under the following declaration: 'I agree to abstain from all intoxicating liquors as beverages.'

A Declaration Book shall be provided and kept for that purpose.

When the Declaration has been kept for three months the young person will be an acknowledged member, and should purchase the Card of membership.

Especial care should be exercised in the admission of members. The greatest pains should be taken to ascertain that the child understands the nature of the engagement into which it desires to enter. The plan of visiting the child's parents or guardians should be adopted in every case where application is made for admission (1877, vol. xx., p. 517).

N.B.—In 1906 the Conference repeated its recommendation, made in 1891, concerning Quarterly Tickets of membership, as follows :—The Conference repeats its recommendation that in all our Bands of Hope and Sunday Schools the Quarterly Ticket of membership shall be used, and that this Ticket shall be given, not only to those who are members of the Band of Hope in the ordinary way, but to all scholars who, though not able to attend Band of Hope Meetings, may be led by their Teacher to enrol themselves in the column now printed for that purpose in every Teachers' Register, and that these be returned as the Sunday School Section of this Band of Hope in the Circuit Temperance Schedule (1891, p. 314 ; 1906, pp. 82, 83).

The Conduct of the Band of Hope

Every Meeting shall be commenced with devotional exercises. There should be two or three short addresses. Singing should be regarded as an important feature in every Meeting. If any recitations be introduced, nothing vulgar or theatrical should be allowed.

In conducting Bands of Hope, it should ever be remembered that the sentiments and music introduced will linger in the memory, and influence the feelings and character throughout subsequent years; hence they should always be pure, refining, elevating. The singing should be lively; the speakers should seek, not only to interest and amuse, but also to instruct, and thus to build up character on the basis of Christian principle—ever bearing in mind that ‘the harvest answereth to the seed.’

N.B.—No sale of literature shall be permitted on the Lord's Day (1877, vol. xx., p. 518).

See *Entertainments on Trust Premises*, pp. 56, 57.

Auxiliary Agencies

The efficiency of Bands of Hope may be greatly promoted by the introduction of carefully selected literature; by the formation of a singing-class; by the discreet supervision of all festival arrangements; by the collection of small subscriptions from those who are able to become paying members; and, in many cases, by the establishment of a Penny Bank (1877, vol. xx., p. 518).

Relation to the Sunday School

As the religious character and harmonious working of the Bands of Hope will depend largely upon their close connexion with the Sunday School, it is very desirable that they should, as far as possible, be countenanced and promoted by the Superintendents, Officers, and Teachers of the several Schools with which they are associated (1877, vol. xx., p. 518).

The Chief Aim

In order to secure the blessing of Almighty God, the Band of Hope should be carried on in the spirit of faith and prayer; the children should be clearly taught that Total Abstinence is no substitute for Scriptural conversion; and the whole Organization should be constantly regarded as only a means to the great end of winning souls for Christ, and of retaining them within the fold of His Church (1877, vol. xx., p. 518).

For *The Young Abstiners League, Circuit Temperance Societies and Unions*, see pp. 243-47.

Boys' Committees and Allied Agencies

See *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, pp. 85-90.

REPRESENTATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOLS IN CIRCUIT QUARTERLY MEETINGS

1. No one who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church of at least three years' continuous standing shall be *ex officio*, or eligible to be elected as, a Representative from a Sunday School to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. No person shall be deemed eligible to represent a Sunday School at the Quarterly Meeting of any Circuit in which he is not at the time a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

2. The Chief, or General Superintendent of every Sunday School, shall be a member *ex officio* of the Quarterly Meeting. See pp. 203, 204.

3. In Schools with an average attendance of one hundred to three hundred scholars, in addition to the

ex officio Representative, a special Representative shall be chosen from the Teachers and Officers of the School at the Annual Meeting of the Local Council.

4. In Schools with an average attendance of three hundred scholars and upwards, a second special Representative shall be elected in like manner. The special Representative or Representatives shall be elected annually, the same persons being eligible for re-election. Only Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall vote for Representatives.

5. Where there are two sessions, the average attendance shall be that for the larger session, as given in the official Returns for the year preceding that in which the election is made.

6. Should any School Superintendent not be a Member of the Church, the Teachers and Officers of the School may, at the Annual Meeting of the Local Council, elect from among their own number, as a Representative, some other person who is duly qualified in respect of his Membership.

7. The time and place of the Meeting when Representatives are elected shall be fixed in consultation with the Superintendent Minister, either he or one of his Colleagues being in the chair; and, in the event of a Circuit Minister not being present, the Chairman shall be elected by the Meeting, such Chairman being a Member of the Church (1894, pp. 313, 314; 1895, p. 341; 1911, p. 512; 1913, p. 427; 1914, pp. 446, 447).

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

N.B.—The Conference in 1908 separated the Connexional Sunday School Union from the Education

Committee and constituted a Sunday School Department. In 1911 the constitution of the Connexional Council governing the Department was altered. The scheme, as amended in 1909, 1911, and 1912, is as follows :

Title

The Title shall be ' The Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Department.'

Principles

The main principles already approved by the Conference shall be maintained.

Connexional Council

The Connexional Sunday School Council shall be appointed by the Conference, and shall consist of :

(1) The *ex-officio* members :—The President, Ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference, the Treasurer of the Department, the Secretary of the Education Committee, the Connexional Editor, the Book Steward, the Secretary of the General Chapel Committee, the Secretary of the Temperance Committee, the Secretary of the Wesley Guild, and the Secretary of the Department.

(2) Five Ministers and nine Laymen, who shall be nominated for the purposes of the Weekly Meeting of the Trade and Finance Committee.

(3) One Minister annually nominated by the May Synod, and one Layman annually nominated by each District Council, together with one additional Lay Representative annually nominated from each District for

every additional 20,000 scholars in average attendance above the first 20,000.

(4) Together with ten other Ministers and ten other Laymen.

District Synod Committee

A Sunday School Committee shall be appointed by each Synod, consisting of the Chairman and Financial Secretary, four other Ministers, and six Laymen, who shall thereby become members of the Synod (1907, p. 103): For this Committee, see pp. 472, 510.

Grants from Education Fund

So long as the Education Fund is available, the Conference shall be asked to set apart from that source a sum to be determined annually by the Conference, which sum shall not be less than £500 per annum.

N.B.—The Conference, in 1909, resolved 'that the Grant now made from the Education Fund to the Sunday School Department of £500 per annum be increased to £1,000' (1909, p. 118).

Grants and Lectures

The Department shall be authorized:

(1) To make Grants for Sunday School furniture and outfit as it may be able;

(2) To appoint qualified Lecturers to visit Districts and Circuits with a view to the improvement of Sunday School organization (1907, pp. 102, 103; 1908, p. 97; 1911, p. 515; 1912, pp. 75, 76). See pp. 227, 228.

Treasurer and the Conference

N.B.—The Conference in 1910 appointed the Treasurer of the Sunday School Department an *ex-officio* member of the Representative Session of the Conference (1909, p. 116 ; 1910, p. 99).

Benefits of the Department

See *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, pp. 11-13.

SCHEME FOR REPRESENTATION BY ELECTION IN SUNDAY SCHOOL AFFAIRS

N.B.—The following Scheme was adopted by the Conference in 1911. See *Minutes*, 1911, pp. 63, 510-15.

1. The Committee appointed by the Conference of 1908 for the direction of the affairs of the Sunday School Department affirms, as a basis of its Constitution :

(1) That the Sunday School Department shall include in its membership all the Wesleyan Sunday Schools of Great Britain.

(2) That the Annual Subscription hitherto paid to the Connexional Union shall not be an essential condition to entitle any Wesleyan Sunday School to the benefits which the Department may be able to confer.

(3) That, in order to enlarge the power of the Department to grant assistance as large and as far-reaching as possible, every School shall be earnestly requested to support the Department by an Annual Contribution, raised by a Collection or otherwise, which should be remitted not later than February 28.

2. The Committee hereby also resolves that, in order to further the work of the Department and to sustain and

enlarge the enthusiasm of the Sunday School Workers throughout the Connexion, there should be adopted a complete system of representation, by election, of all the Schools in Great Britain, and that the following Regulations be submitted to the Conference for its approval, viz. :

The several Authorities shall be named :

1. The Local Sunday School Council.
2. The Circuit Sunday School Council.
3. The District Sunday School Council.
4. The Connexional Sunday School Council.

It shall be competent for all of these Authorities to avail themselves of the assistance of one or more Committees, elected entirely from their own members.

I. The Local Sunday School Council

A. This shall be the unit of representation, and shall consist of :

(1) The Circuit Minister or Ministers, and any Supernumerary Minister who is in charge of that particular Society.

(2) The Officers of the Sunday School, who are seventeen years of age and upwards.

N.B.—The Superintendent and Secretary of the Band of Hope, the General Secretary of the Wesley Guild, an Officer of any Company of the Boys' Brigade, Boys' or Girls' Life Brigade, or of any organization *directly connected with the Sunday School* which may be approved by the Department, shall be counted as an Officer of the School.

(3) All Fully Accredited Teachers of the Sunday School, who are seventeen years of age and upwards.

N.B.—(a) Helpers in the Primary Department, who

are seventeen years of age and upwards, shall be regarded as Teachers.

(b) In all new appointments, those who are appointed to the office of Superintendent must be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and it is desirable that other Officers and Teachers should also be Members.

(4) Other elected Members in the proportion of one to every fifteen, or fraction of fifteen, Officers and Teachers of the School, to be annually elected from each of the following sections of the Church, making together three to every fifteen :

(a) Members of the Leaders' Meeting, to be elected at its Annual Meeting.

(b) Members of the Church, who are interested in Sunday School work, to be elected by the Annual Society Meeting.

(c) Elder scholars over eighteen years of age, who have been scholars not less than six months, and who are Members of the Church, to be elected by a Special Meeting of all the scholars above eighteen years of age, such Meeting being convened by the Sunday School Superintendent, acting in consultation with the Superintendent Minister or one of his Colleagues.

N.B.—(1) The Local Council as above constituted shall be adopted :

(a) Wherever there is no Local Council in existence.

(b) Wherever a Resolution for its adoption is carried at a Joint Meeting of the Committee and Teachers' Meeting (to be called at the request of either body), or at a Teachers' Meeting only if no Committee exists.

(2) Where the Sunday School is already satisfactorily organized an alternative form of constitution of the Local Council shall be recognized, if consisting of :

(a) The Teachers' Meeting and Sunday School Committee as recommended by the Conference of 1827 and revised in 1868, 1873, 1874, and 1875, and as at present existing.

(b) The Teachers' Meeting as at present existing, where no Sunday School Committee exists.

B.—This Local Sunday School Council shall :

(1) Have complete oversight and management of the Sunday School interests, taking up all the functions of the Teachers' Meeting and Sunday School Committee, as hitherto constituted.

N.B.—The Superintendent Minister or other Minister in the Circuit shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Council. In the absence of a Minister the Superintendent of the Sunday School shall preside.

(2) Elect annually the Officers and Committee of a Band of Hope, and of any other organization connected with the School and officially recognized by the Sunday School Department.

(3) Remit its Annual Contribution to the Department through the Circuit Sunday School Council. See II., B 10.

(4) Consider, at a meeting to be held not later than January 31 of each year, the School Returns for the year ending December 31 previous, and immediately forward the Schedule to the Circuit Secretary. See II., B 3.

(5) Elect annually one Lay Representative to the Circuit Sunday School Council for every hundred, or fraction of a hundred, scholars in average attendance. See II., A 3.

N.B.—(a) The Superintendents and Secretaries are *ex-officio* members of the Circuit Sunday School Council. See II., A 2.

(b) No one who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall be eligible to be elected as a Representative.

(c) In the case of Schools retaining the present constitution of Committee and Teachers' Meeting, the Representative shall be elected at a joint meeting of these bodies.

(d) The present system of 'Representation of Sunday Schools in Circuit Quarterly Meetings' (see *Minutes*, 1894, pp. 313, 314) shall be continued.

(e) Only Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church shall vote for Representatives to the Circuit Quarterly Meeting (1894, pp. 313, 314).

(6) Forward Applications for 'Grants from the Department' to the Lay Secretary of the Circuit Sunday School Council for its consideration and report to the Connexional Sunday School Council. See II., B 8.

II. The Circuit Sunday School Council

A. This shall consist of :

(1) The Circuit Ministers, and any Supernumerary Minister who is in charge of a particular Society.

(2) The Superintendents and Secretaries of each School. See I., B 5, N.B. *a*.

(3) One Representative elected annually by each Local Sunday School Council for every hundred, or fraction of a hundred, scholars in average attendance. See I., B 5.

(4) Seven Representatives elected by the December Circuit Quarterly Meeting, one of whom shall be a Circuit Steward, and one of whom shall be the Circuit Education Secretary.

(5) This Council shall have power, at its first Meeting

in each year, to co-opt additional members in the proportion of one to every twenty, or fraction of twenty, of its members.

N.B.—In the first instance, the Circuit Education Secretary shall act as Convener of the new Circuit Sunday School Council.

B. This Circuit Sunday School Council shall :

(1) Meet once a year ; oftener if possible.

N.B.—The Superintendent Minister or one of his Colleagues shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Council.

(2) Elect annually a Lay Secretary and Treasurer ; a Ministerial Secretary being appointed by the September Quarterly Meeting.

(3) Consider the Sunday School Schedules and report thereon to the March Quarterly Meeting.

(4) Promote the opening of new and the extension and improvement of existing Schools.

(5) Consider Plans for proposed new Sunday School Buildings within the area of the Circuit, and make suggestions to the Trustees if necessary.

(6) Arrange a system of Visitation of the Schools of the Circuit by duly appointed Visitors, and at one Meeting of the year give consideration to their Reports.

(7) Stimulate the improvement of the Schools by holding Conventions, Lectures, Classes, &c., and co-operate with the District Sunday School Council in advocating the observance of the Connexional Department Examinations. See III., B 3.

(8) Report on and forward applications from the Schools in the Circuit for ' Grants from the Department.' See I., B 6.

(9) Elect annually a Ministerial and a Lay Representative to the District Sunday School Council ; and

one additional Representative if the Circuit has an average attendance of more than 1,000 Scholars. See III., A 2.

(10) Receive the Annual Contribution to the Department from each Sunday School of the Circuit, and, after retaining one-half towards the expenses of the Circuit Sunday School Council, remit one-sixth to the Treasurer of the District Sunday School Council, and the remaining third to the Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School Department, 2 and 3, Ludgate Circus Buildings, London, E.C. See *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, p. 20.

III. The District Sunday School Council

A.—This shall consist of :

(1) The District Synod Sunday School Committee as at present constituted.

(2) One Ministerial and one Lay Representative annually elected by each Circuit Sunday School Council, and one additional Representative from each Circuit with an average attendance of more than 1,000 scholars. See II., B 9.

(3) The District Sunday School Council shall have power, at its first Meeting in each year, to co-opt additional members in the proportion of one to every twenty, or fraction of twenty, of its members.

B.—This District Sunday School Council shall :

(1) Meet once a year ; oftener if possible.

(2) Elect annually a Lay Secretary and Treasurer ; the Ministerial Secretary being appointed by the September Synod.

(3) Further the interests of the Sunday Schools in the District by holding Conventions, Lectures, Classes,

&c. ; and by assisting Circuit Sunday School Councils in arranging for the holding of the Connexional Department Examinations.

(4) Receive through its Secretaries the Schedules from the Circuit Sunday School Councils and report thereon to the Synod through the District Synod Sunday School Committee.

(5) Nominate annually in March a Lay Representative to the Connexional Sunday School Council for the ensuing year, together with one additional Lay Representative for every additional 20,000 scholars in average attendance above the first 20,000 ; the Ministerial Representative being nominated by the May Synod. See IV., A 3.

IV. The Connexional Sunday School Council

A. This shall be appointed by the Conference, and shall consist of

(1) The *ex-officio* members—viz. the President, Ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference ; the Treasurer of the Department, the Secretary of the Education Committee, the Connexional Editor, the Book Steward, the Secretary of the General Chapel Committee, the Secretary of the Temperance Committee, the Secretary of the Wesley Guild, and the Secretary of the Department (1907, p. 102 ; 1912, pp. 75, 76).

(2) Five Ministers and nine Laymen, who shall be nominated for the purposes of the Weekly Meeting of the Trade and Finance Committee. See IV., B 7.

(3) One Minister annually nominated by the May Synod, and one Layman annually nominated by each District Council, together with one additional Lay Representative annually nominated from each District for

every additional 20,000 scholars in average attendance above the first 20,000. See III., B 5.

(4) Together with ten other Ministers and ten other Laymen.

B. This Connexional Sunday School Council shall :

(1) Meet ordinarily three times in the year (October, February, and June), and usually in London.

(2) Receive Schedules from District Secretaries and confer thereon, and communicate with the District and Circuit Councils.

(3) Consider generally the needs and interests of Sunday Schools throughout the Connexion.

(4) Promote a System of Examinations for Teachers and Scholars throughout the Connexion. See II., B 7, and III., B 3.

(5) Make Grants for Sunday School furniture and outfit as it may be able, and also help in the development of Sunday School work through the District Sunday School Councils.

(6) Appoint qualified Lecturers to visit Districts and Circuits with a view to the improvement of Sunday School organization.

(7) Nominate at its February Meeting, for appointment by the Conference, five Ministers and nine Laymen, who shall be nominated for the purposes of the Weekly Meeting of the Trade and Finance Committee, together with ten other Ministers and ten other Laymen. See IV., A 2, and IV., A 4.

Sunday Schools in the Welsh Districts

The Conference allows the Welsh Districts to work their Sunday Schools under the arrangement already made by the Welsh Assembly (1911, p. 63).

District Synod Sunday School Committees

District Synod Sunday School Committees shall have charge also of the interests of the Day Schools in their respective Districts (1880, p. 235).

DAY SCHOOLS**Erection and Enlargement**

1. Parties contemplating the erection of premises (or any expensive alteration or enlargement of premises already erected) for the establishment of new Schools, are directed to communicate, *first*, with the Education Committee, for the purpose of receiving suitable counsel as to the general eligibility of their projected undertaking, and the adaptation of the premises to the system of instruction designed to be adopted; and, *secondly*, with the Chapel Building Committee, for the purpose of receiving such advice and assistance in regard to the proposed building plans and estimates as the experience of that Committee may enable them to give (1845, vol. x., p. 240; 1873, vol. xix., p. 181).

2. The Conference directs that any enlargement of a School-room used as a Day School, and not connected with a Chapel Trust Estate, the income of which may, in the united judgement of the Education Committee and the Chapel Committee, be available and sufficient for the payment of interest, as well as of any debt allowed, shall be subject to the Regulations which apply to the enlargement of Chapels (1879, p. 214). For Regulations relating to the enlargement of Chapels see p. 478.

Grants

1. The Conference empowers the Education Committee to make Grants, on inspection, to new Schools

to which the provisions of the Minute of the Education Department, dated June 21, 1878, apply, and for the probationary period during which, under the said Minute, such Schools cannot receive Grants in aid from the Department (1878, p. 240).

2. In applications for Grants coming before the Education Committee, the judgement of the District Chapel Committee or District Sunday and Day School Committee of the Synod, from which these applications come, shall be obtained and laid before the members of the Connexional Education Committee when such applications are being considered. This rule shall apply to ordinary applications, and not to those of special urgency (1912, p. 71).

3. The Conference empowers the Wesleyan Education Committee to make Grants towards expenditure incurred by structural and other alterations demanded by the Board of Education in Day School premises (1898, p. 315).

Legal Settlement

See pp. 111, 126.

Management

N.B.—The Education Act, 1902, provides that every Voluntary School shall be managed by a body normally consisting of six Managers, of whom four are Foundation Managers and two Representatives of the Local Authority.

Two Final Orders have been issued by the Board of Education for the election of Foundation Managers for Wesleyan Day Schools. These Orders only affect the

Trust Deed so far as the Management clauses are concerned.

Form 'A' provides that the Representative Managers shall be elected triennially at a joint Meeting of the Trustees of the School premises for the time being, the Superintendent and other Ministers of the Circuit, and the Qualified Subscribers as hereinafter defined. In default of such election, the Trustees of the School premises may appoint the Representative Managers. Qualified Subscribers are persons who have voluntarily contributed to the funds of the School a sum of not less than 2s. 6d. in the last preceding school year. At least two-thirds of the Representative Managers shall always be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. The *ex-officio* Manager is to be the Superintendent Minister for the time being, or, if he is unwilling to act, one of the other Ministers of the Circuit appointed by him to act in his place for the current triennial period.

In regard to the Superintendent Minister being *ex-officio*, Form 'B' is similar to Form 'A'; but the other three members of the Committee, termed non-official Managers, are to be appointed as follows:

'The Nominated Manager shall be appointed by the Trustees of the School premises at a meeting convened for the purpose in accordance with the practice of that Body.

'The Representative Managers shall be elected at a joint Meeting of Qualified Subscribers as hereinafter defined and parents of the Children attending the School, provided that one of the Representative Managers shall always be a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

'In default of such election, the Trustees of the

School premises may appoint the Representative Managers.'

The definition of Qualified Subscribers is the same as in the case of Form 'A.' See *Report of the Wesleyan Committee of Education*, 1903-4, pp. 21-5.

Religious Instruction and Worship

Such Schools shall be of a distinctively religious character; and, as practical means to realize this important purpose, the following elementary arrangements are deemed indispensable, viz.:

1. The Bible shall be the basis of all the Religious Instruction; and a certain portion of every day, at least half an hour, shall be set apart for the devotional reading of the Holy Scriptures, with explanations by the Teacher, Minister, or duly appointed Visitor, or for Catechetical instruction.

2. The Authorized Wesleyan Catechisms shall be used in all our Schools, subject to such provisions of the Elementary Education Act of 1870 as are commonly known collectively as 'The Conscience Clause.'

N.B.—The Conference, in 1869, affirmed its conviction that 'the enforcement of an adequate Conscience Clause, in all Schools receiving Parliamentary Grants for building or maintenance, is essential to the due protection of the liberties of the people' (vol. xvii., p. 611).

3. Christian Psalmody—in which the Wesleyan Hymn-Book, or other Hymn-Book, published or approved by the Wesleyan Education Committee, shall be used—shall form a part of the daily exercises.

4. The school duties of each day shall begin and end with Prayer (1873, vol. xix., p. 178).

Visitation by Ministers

Arrangements shall be made upon each Circuit Plan for the regular Visitation of each Day School in the Circuit, by one or more of the Ministers of the Circuit, for religious instruction and catechizing during the time shown to be allotted for such purposes by the Timetable of each School (1873, vol. xix., pp. 179, 180).

Reports on Religious Instruction

1. The Managers of every School shall require from the Teacher, at least once a year, a Report as to the nature and extent of the Religious Instruction given in the School, in order that they may be satisfied that the truths of Scripture are regularly taught to the Children (1888, p. 268).

2. A General Report of the Religious Instruction given in the Day Schools, founded upon the Teachers' Reports from the several Schools, as well as upon the personal Visitation of the Ministers, shall be submitted to the March Quarterly Meeting, when the Returns as to the Day and Sunday Schools of the Circuit are presented (1889, p. 269). See p. 178.

Examination in Religious Knowledge

It is deemed desirable that the Managers shall arrange, in conjunction with the Teacher, for regular Examinations of the School in Religious Knowledge; such Examinations to be conducted, as to time and method, as circumstances require (1888, pp. 268, 269).

Teachers

N.B.—Every Head Teacher employed in the Schools, or trained for them, shall be of a decidedly religious

character, and in connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Society (1873, vol. xix., p. 178).

The Education Act of 1902 provides that Assistant Teachers may be employed who do not belong to the Denomination of the School.

Instruction in Physiology and Hygiene

See *Minutes*, 1893, pp. 297, 298.

Temperance Teaching

N.B.—The Conference, in 1911, requested the Managers of our Day Schools to adopt the Temperance Syllabus of the Board of Education. See 1912, pp. 70, 71.

Closing or Transfer of Schools

See pp. 127, 128, 165, 166.

1. The Conference expresses its opinion that, in view of the working of existing arrangements for Public Elementary Education, it is highly desirable that the number of Wesleyan Day Schools should at least be maintained. The Conference therefore strongly recommends that before any steps are taken towards the closing or transfer of any Wesleyan Day School, the proposal to close or transfer it be communicated to the Education Committee, in order that they may have an opportunity of suggesting alternative proposals for the consideration of Local Managers.

2. The Conference directs that in all ordinary cases of Day Schools conducted on Wesleyan Trust premises, no such Schools shall be discontinued so long as there is a reasonable prospect of their being carried on without

serious embarrassment. The same general principle shall apply to Wesleyan Day Schools conducted in premises rented for the purpose under the management of a recognized Wesleyan School Committee. When, however, the discontinuance of a Day School is proposed, before such proposal is carried into effect, the Superintendent shall consult the Trustees, the Managing Committee, and the Subscribers ; and if in any case there is a considerable division of opinion, the case shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit. In all cases, the general principle laid down by the Conference respecting the transfer of Schools—namely, that the Superintendents of the Circuits, with the Managers and Trustees, acting in concert, shall consult the Education Committee—shall be adhered to.

3. The Conference declares that it shall not be deemed to be within the power and option of a Superintendent to prevent the establishment or continuance of a Wesleyan Day School, so long as responsible parties pledge themselves to bear all the financial cost and risk (1877, vol. xx., pp. 408, 409 ; 1878, pp. 240, 241).

4. In view of the interpretation which is put upon Section xxiii. of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, by the Lords of the Committee of Council, to the effect that any transfer of a School, settled upon our School Model Deed No. I., to a Public Education Authority, for any term whatever, for the purposes of such Education Authority, must be sanctioned not only by the signatures of the Trustees, but by the Conference, testified by the President in writing, the Conference directs that in every case in which the transfer of such a School is proposed, the Superintendent, with the Managers and Trustees acting in concert, shall first consult the

Education Committee on the subject, and that if, for reasons given, that Committee recommends such a transfer, the Rules of the Conference in relation to the sale of Trust Property shall be applicable thereto ;—the Education Committee considering all questions affecting School Management, and the Chapel Committee all questions affecting Trust Property.

5. In respect to Schools settled on the School Model Deed No. II., or on any other Deed in which the consent of the Conference is rendered necessary for the alienation of the property, the Conference recommends the Trustees to act upon the same principles as those laid down in the foregoing clause in relation to Schools settled on the School Model Deed No. I.

6. In all cases of transfer which may hereafter occur, the Conference recommends that provision be made in the instrument of transfer to secure the resumption of the premises by the Trustees, without their being required to reimburse any money laid out upon them by the Education Authority solely for its own purposes (1873, vol. xix., p. 181).

7. The Conference is of opinion that the Managers of Wesleyan Day Schools should retain the Schools under their own management until such time as the Education Act, 1902, has been repealed or amended in accordance with the declared policy of the Conference (1904, p. 105).

8. In the interests of the Methodist Church and of the education of the Country, especially in rural districts, the Conference deeply deplores the giving up of any Methodist School, and would impress on all our Managers that before any steps are taken towards transfer or surrender they should lay the case before the Connex-

ional Education Committee for its counsel and assistance (1914, pp. 57, 58).

For Grants, see pp. 229-30.

District Committee

The Conference directs that, in all cases of difficulty in carrying on our Connexional Day Schools which are likely to result in the closing or transfer of such Schools, before such action be initiated, the District Synod Sunday School Committee shall be consulted; it being understood that such consultation shall not interfere with the direction of the Conference requiring consultation with the General Education Committee (1893, p. 327). See p. 472.

School Boards

The Conference repeats its declaration, made in 1891, as follows :

1. The primary object of Methodist policy in the matter of Elementary Education is the establishment of School Boards everywhere, acting in Districts of sufficient area, and the placing of a Christian unsectarian School within reasonable distance of every family. This is of special importance in the rural districts, where our people have no alternative to the compulsory attendance of their children at Anglican Schools.

2. There should be no increased Grant of public funds, either from the local rates or from the Imperial taxes, to Denominational Schools, unless that increased Grant is accompanied by adequate and representative public management.

3. No National System of Education which shall exclude from the Day Schools the Bible and religious

instruction therefrom by the Teachers, suited to the capacities of children, will meet the necessities of the country.

4. Our Connexional Training Colleges shall be maintained in full vigour and efficiency.

5. And, lastly, with respect to our Connexional Day Schools, the Conference repeats its often declared sense of the great services they have rendered to Methodism, and to the sacred cause of National Christian Education ; and it emphasizes their special importance in those localities where it is impossible to establish School Boards acting in Districts of sufficient area, and having under their control Christian unsectarian Schools (1895, pp. 291, 292).

N.B.—The above Declaration must be read in the light of subsequent Parliamentary legislation concerning National Education.

District Sunday School Secretary

The Sunday School Secretary, appointed by each District Synod in September, shall collect the Schedules, summarize the Statistics contained in them, present to the District Synod in May a Report on the Schools of the District, and transmit the Schedules, with any Resolutions of the District Synod relating to Education, to the Secretary of the General Education Committee (1873, vol. xix., p. 179).

Statistics and Schedules

The Secretary of each School shall be requested to furnish to the General Committee, through the Superintendent of the Circuit, an Annual Report of the state of the School, as provided for by Schedules and other

Forms of inquiry issued by direction of the General Committee (1873, vol. xix., p. 179). See also pp. 178, 179.

Admission to the Training Colleges

The Conference resolves that, after provision is made in the Training Colleges for eligible Wesleyan Candidates, the Members of other Methodist Churches may properly be welcomed to fill any vacant places, if they are prepared to attend the appointed Religious Services connected with the Colleges, on the distinct understanding that they are not expected to sever their membership with their own Religious Communities, or to receive any token of membership with the Wesleyan Methodist Church during their residence in the Colleges (1905, p. 69).

N.B.—By the Regulations of the Government, compliance with which is required in order to receive Government Grants, Candidates for one-half the number of vacant places must be selected without regard to the Religious Denomination to which they belong.

VI. RELATING TO TEMPERANCE SOCIETIES

Title

Every such Organization shall be called a ' Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Society.'

Principles

1. Every Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Society must recognize the principle, already sanctioned by the Conference, of the co-operation of Abstainers and Non-Abstainers.

N.B.—In view of the fact that the larger number of

the Temperance Societies reported in our Schedules are not organized according to Conference Rule, and that several important District Synods have suggested a modification of the Rule concerning the Dual Platform ; the Conference, while urging that, wherever possible, its original Rule shall be adhered to, nevertheless sanctions the formation of Societies upon a Total Abstinence basis in Circuits where this appears to be the most desirable method of working (1892, p. 304).

2. In the formation of such Societies the Superintendent Minister shall be first consulted, and his concurrence obtained.

3. Every such Society shall use the Forms of Declaration hereinafter contained.

Objects

To promote Temperance, and to remove the causes which lead to Intemperance. The following are the special objects which these Societies should seek to secure :

1. The diminution of the number of Licensed Houses for the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors, and the shortening of the time during which they may be open each day.

2. The suppression of Beer Houses throughout the country.

3. The closing of Public Houses during the whole of the Lord's Day, except for the accommodation of *bonâ fide* travellers.

4. The curtailment, by appeals to the Licensing Authorities, of facilities for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

5. The refusal of Dancing and Music Licences to Houses licensed for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors.

6. The removal from Public Houses of Benefit, Friendly, and Burial Clubs, and the discontinuance of the payment of wages at such Houses.

7. The discouragement of the use of Intoxicants in 'Toasts' and 'Drinking of Healths'; in social calls and 'Treating'; in business and commercial transactions; and in 'Footing' and similar customs.

8. The encouragement of Refreshment Houses and Reading Rooms in which strong drink shall not be supplied.

9. The entire disuse of Intoxicating Liquors in connexion with Sunday School Festivals and Excursions, and on similar occasions.

10. The reclaiming of those who have 'erred through strong drink.'

11. The educating of Public Opinion on the foregoing objects, and the sending of Petitions to Parliament, when deemed desirable by the Connexional Committee on Temperance.

12. The encouragement of Special Prayer for the Divine blessing upon the Temperance movement.

N.B.—In 1870 the Conference passed the following Resolution: The Conference declares its judgement that a reform of the present Licensing system is absolutely necessary, and that in any measures which may hereafter be adopted provision should be made, in harmony with a recognized principle of local self-government, that the rate-payers, who bear the charges resulting from the prevalence of Intemperance and its consequent pauperism and crime, shall also have power to control the issue of licences for the sale of intoxicating drinks within their respective districts. The Conference further expresses the hope that any well-considered measure tending to

secure this object will meet with general and earnest support (vol. xviii., p. 150). See also 1895, p. 304.

Management

1. The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee of Management ; but may, when he shall see fit, appoint one of his Colleagues to act in his place.

2. The Committee of Management shall, if practicable, be composed of abstainers and non-abstainers. Two-thirds, at least, of this Committee shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, and the remainder regular attendants on the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry.

3. The Ministers of the Circuit shall be *ex-officio* members of the Committee ; the other members of the Committee shall be elected by the members of such Society at their Annual Meeting.

4. The Committee shall, at its first Meeting, elect a Treasurer and Secretary. The Committee shall meet as frequently as circumstances may require ; and, if no Minister be present, shall elect some other member to preside.

Membership

1. All persons who shall sign and observe either of the following DECLARATIONS shall be regarded as members :

Abstaining Members.—‘ I hereby agree to abstain from all Intoxicating Liquors as beverages, and will endeavour to promote the objects of this Society.’

Non-Abstaining Members.—‘ I hereby agree to exert myself for the suppression of Intemperance, and will endeavour to promote the objects of this Society.’

2. Members shall be requested to contribute towards the expenses of the Circuit Organization (1877, vol. xx., pp. 518-20).

Roll of Abstainers

The Conference recommends that, in places where it is impossible to form an Adult Society holding frequent meetings, a Society shall be formed by the appointment of a Secretary, and by keeping a Roll of Abstainers (1900, p. 315).

Temperance Sunday

The Conference recommends that on the second Sunday in November in each year special reference shall be made in all Wesleyan Methodist Places of Worship, and in all our Sunday Schools, to the appalling extent and dire results of Intemperance, and to the many advantages and blessings of Total Abstinence (1887, p. 254; 1908, p. 77).

Bands of Hope

See pp. 210-16.

THE WESLEYAN METHODIST LEAGUE OF ABSTAINERS

The Conference adopts the following statement respecting a new Programme of Temperance Work submitted by the Connexional Temperance Committee. The Conference approves the new Programme therein outlined, and recommends it to the Circuits of the Connexion.

The New Programme

The attention of the Temperance Committee has been directed to a new task. Recognizing that there is a

serious leakage from the Temperance ranks at the period when Band of Hope work ordinarily ceases, the Committee has tested a new method of enrolling the young Methodists of our Sunday Schools and Congregations as Total Abstainers. The new method is that of the Young Abstainers' League. The essential features of the new League are three :

(1) An annual canvass of the young people of each Methodist Society to enrol themselves as abstainers.

(2) An annual rally of the enrolled abstainers.

(3) An annual reaffirmation pledge.

The League need not increase meetings, nor multiply organizations. Its work will be done through existing institutions—the Sunday School, the Band of Hope, the Wesley Guild, the Brotherhood, etc. The method of enrolment will be by personal canvassing for pledges. Membership in the Young Abstainers' League will be open to young Methodists between the thirteenth birthday and the twenty-first.

To prevent leakage from the Temperance ranks at the age of twenty-one, the Young Abstainers' League will be linked with the Adult Temperance work of our Church. The new Temperance work for young people and adults will be comprised within one organization, to be known as 'The Wesleyan Methodist League of Abstainers.' The League of Abstainers will thus include two sections :

Section 1.—The Young Abstainers' League, whose members will be between the thirteenth birthday and the twenty-first.

Section 2.—The Adult Abstainers' League, whose members will be above twenty-one years of age. At the age of twenty-one, members of the Young Abstainers'

League will be transferred to the Adult Abstainers' League. The annual canvass, the annual rally, and the annual reaffirmation pledge will be the essential features of both sections. A system of Removal Notes will pilot removing members of the League from old Church associations to new.

The financial arrangements of the League are very simple. Each member will be asked to contribute *1d.* per annum. The local Branches are to remit a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per member per annum to the Connexional Temperance Department in return for the necessary literature; the remainder can be retained to meet local expenses.

It is important to note that in this way our Church will possess a complete Temperance programme. For childhood, there will be the Temperance teaching of the Band of Hope, Junior Guild, and Sunday School. For adolescence, the Young Abstainers' League with its annual safeguard of the reaffirmation pledge. For the manhood and womanhood of the Church, the Adult Abstainers' League, worked on similar lines (1912, pp. 85-7).

N.B.—For an outline of the 'Complete Temperance Programme' adopted by the Conference see 1914, pp. 542-5.

CIRCUIT TEMPERANCE UNIONS

The Wesleyan Methodist Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope in any Circuit may be formed into a Circuit Temperance Union.

Management

Every such Union shall be managed by a Committee, annually elected, consisting equally, if possible, of

Abstainers and Non-Abstainers, and comprising all the Ministers of the Circuit, together with twelve or more persons, one-half of whom shall be elected by the Band or Bands of Hope in the Circuit in such proportions as may be locally determined ; and the other half shall, in like manner, be elected by the Temperance Society or Societies of the Circuit. The elective Body of each Band of Hope or Temperance Society shall be, for this purpose, its own Committee.

Officers

The Circuit Union Committee shall appoint from among themselves a Treasurer and Secretaries.

The Secretaries

The Secretaries shall convene and take Minutes of Meetings of the Committee ; keep a record of Returns received from the Temperance Societies and Bands of Hope ; furnish, in due time, the Returns required for the District Temperance Secretaries' Report ; and attend generally to the affairs of the Circuit Temperance Union.

Chairman

The Superintendent of the Circuit shall be *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee ; but may, when he shall see fit, appoint one of his Colleagues, or some other member of the Committee, to act in his place (1879, p. 265).

CIRCUIT TEMPERANCE SECRETARIES

The Conference recommends the appointment of a Circuit Temperance Secretary in every Circuit ; and the

Superintendents are directed to send the names and addresses of such Secretaries to the Secretary of the Connexional Temperance Committee not later than the end of September. The Conference further recommends that in every church a Secretary of the League of Abstainers shall be appointed. And wherever no Circuit Temperance Secretary is appointed, the Superintendents of Circuits are directed to send to the Connexional Temperance Secretary by the same date the names and addresses of all the Secretaries of Bands of Hope and Temperance Societies in their respective Circuits (1894, p. 304; 1914, p. 72).

For *District Temperance Committees* and *Connexional Temperance Committee* see pp. 452, 453, 612.

VII. RELATING TO TRACT SOCIETIES AND MISSION BANDS

Tract Societies

We recommend to every Superintendent to form a Committee in his Circuit, who may co-operate with the General Committee in London for the purpose of disseminating Religious Tracts throughout the land (1811, vol. iii., p. 221).

Mission Bands

1. The Conference is convinced that, in order that Methodism may be maintained both in town and country, the old voluntary evangelistic agencies must be revived and vigorously sustained, and that no provision of paid Lay Agency, however useful, and indeed necessary, can take its place.

2. The Conference directs that the necessary steps be taken to secure, as far as possible in every Circuit, the

establishment of Mission and Exhorters' Bands, from among the members of which the staff of Local Preachers may be recruited (1889, p. 233).

3. Let us encourage public Prayer Meetings, especially those which are held at times which do not interfere with our general worship, in the houses of our friends, in different parts of a town or neighbourhood ; such Meetings having been long proved to be, when prudently conducted by persons of established piety and competent gifts, and duly superintended by the Preachers, and by the Leaders' Meetings, valuable nurseries for our Congregations and Societies, and means of salvation to many who could not have been reached at first in any other method (1820, vol. v., p. 148).

London Mission Band Union

See *Minutes*, 1889, pp. 247-9.

VIII. THE WESLEY GUILD

N.B.—1. The Scheme of the Wesley Guild adopted by the Conference in 1896 will be found in the *Minutes* for that year, pp. 447-57.

2. For full information concerning the Guild see the *Wesley Guild Manual*, by the Rev. W. B. FitzGerald. Fifth edition. London: The Methodist Publishing House.

I. GENERAL CONSTITUTION

Name

The Wesley Guild.

Officers

The Officers of the General Guild shall be :

President, the President of the Conference.

<p><i>Four Vice-Presidents</i>, two Ministers and two Lay- men. <i>Connexional Secretary</i>, <i>Two Treasurers</i>,</p>	{	<p>Elected by the Confer- ence annually. The Central Council may nominate to the Con- ference.</p>
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Central Council

The Governing Body of the Guild shall be a Central Council, consisting of :

1. The above Officers.
2. The Secretary of the Connexional Sunday School Department.
3. Not less than twenty others, Ministers and Laymen in equal numbers, women being eligible for election, elected annually by the Conference. The Central Council may nominate to the Conference.
4. One Representative elected annually by each District Council of the Guild. See *Minutes* for current year.

Annual Reports

An Annual Report of the work of the Guild shall be prepared by the Secretary ; and, after approval by the Central Council, shall be submitted to Conference. A Financial Report shall be presented in like manner by the Treasurers.

Annual Meeting

A Central Festival shall be held annually for the furtherance of the work of the Guild.

District and Provincial Councils

A Council shall be formed for each Synodal District. It shall also be competent for groups of towns or villages to appoint Local Councils for mutual help and consultation, the promotion of local conferences and united gatherings. The constitution of such Local Councils shall be drafted by the Central Council.

N.B.—In 1913 the Conference resolved that District Ministerial Wesley Guild Secretaries shall be *ex-officio* members of the District Guild Councils (1913, p. 101).

Expenses

The expenses of the General Guild shall be met :

- (1) By voluntary contributions.
- (2) By subscriptions from the Local Guilds, consisting of the net proceeds of one lecture, musical evening, or other gathering held during the year for the benefit of the Central Fund.

Mottoes, Cards, and Badges

These shall be decided from time to time by the Central Council.

Guild Magazine or Paper

A Magazine in the interests of this work shall be published by the Council through the Book-Room.

N.B.—In 1898 the Magazine, *The Guild*, was taken over by the Guild Central Council. See *Wesley Guild Manual*, p. 12.

Alteration of Constitution

No essential change shall be made in the General Constitution without the consent of Conference.

II. LOCAL CONSTITUTION

Name

The Wesley Guild, _____ Branch.

Definition

A Wesley Guild is a Young People's Society, closely linked to the Church, holding weekly or periodical meetings for devotional, literary, and social purposes, and centring around itself various branches of Young People's work.

Essentials

The essentials of a Wesley Guild, more fully described in the following regulations, are :

1. The Pledges.
2. The Devotional Meeting.
3. The association with the Guild of some definite form of active Christian service.
4. Affiliation to the Central Guild.

Aim

The main principle is comradeship in the highest aims of life ; and its objects, briefly stated, are :

1. To awaken and deepen the Christian Life in the Young People of the Congregation and Sunday School.
2. To form and strengthen such associations and agencies as will be helpful to the Church.
3. To link together the various departments of Christian work in which Young People are engaged.
4. To provide for the oversight of Young People by Young People, especially in welcoming those newly

coming to the neighbourhood, and in following with letters of recommendation those who remove.

5. To provide facilities for social and friendly intercourse and literary improvement in harmony with the above objects.

Membership

The Guild shall comprise Active, Companion, and Associate Members.

Active Members of the Guild are Young People who are Members of the Church, and wishful to help others.

Companion Members of the Guild are Young People of the Congregation or Sunday School, who wish to join any section of the Guild, and who are in sympathy with its spirit of friendship and service. .

Associate Members of the Guild are older workers and friends who are in sympathy with the movement.

Pledges

Active Member's Pledge :

'I will earnestly endeavour, in the strength of Christ, to live a truly Christian life, to daily read the Holy Scriptures, and attend to the duty of private prayer. I will attend the Lord's Supper and my Class with regularity, and fulfil to the best of my ability my duties as a Member of the Christian Church. Whenever possible, I will be present at the Devotional Meeting of the Guild, and take an active part in the proceedings, if desired.' See 1904, p. 114.

Companion Member's Pledge :

'I will try to avoid in my daily life anything that would bring discredit upon myself or upon the Church of Christ, and will do my best to maintain the friendly spirit of the Guild.'

Age Limit

No member shall be received under fifteen years of age. All under that age shall join the Junior Guild.

Officers

President : One of the Circuit Ministers.

Vice-Presidents, of whom there may be one for each department, shall be elected annually by the members of the Guild.

<i>Treasurer,</i>	}	To be elected annually by the members of the Guild.
<i>General Secretary,</i>		
<i>Roll Secretary,</i>		

All the above Officers shall be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Executive

The Executive shall consist of :

1. The Officers of the Guild.
2. Three or six persons to be elected annually, one-third by the Leaders' Meeting, one-third by the Local Sunday School Council, and one-third by the members of the Guild, such persons being Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and in known sympathy with Young People's work.
3. The Leaders of Junior Society Classes.
4. One Representative of each section, elected annually at a united meeting of the members of the Guild and of its affiliated sections, such persons being members of the Guild.

Monthly Devotional Meeting of the Guild

This shall be a meeting for praise, prayer, and testi-

mony, at which, if possible, one of the Ministers shall preside.

The Roll of Guild members shall be read, and each Active Member shall be expected not only to answer to his name, but to be willing to take part, by either prayer or brief testimony, or at least by reciting a verse of Scripture or of a hymn.

The names of new members proposed shall be read by the Look-Out Secretary, and they shall be received and welcomed by the members rising or holding up a hand.

Any Active Member unable to be present shall, if practicable, send a message by some other member.

Companion Members of the Guild shall be heartily encouraged to be present.

(i.) The Class Meeting is the recognized Weekly Devotional Meeting for all Active Members of the Guild, being included in their pledge.

(ii.) A Weekly Guild Prayer Meeting is very helpful, and may be held before the Sunday evening service.

Plans for Weekly Meetings

See 1896, pp. 452, 453.

Business Meetings

A Business Meeting should, if possible, be held once a quarter, to receive reports from the sections and to consider the various aspects of the work of the Guild.

Look-out Committee

A Look-Out Committee for the specific oversight of Young People is an essential feature of the Guild.

Among its duties are the following :

1. To look after Young People who are not members with a view to their joining the Guild.
2. To be on the 'look-out' for newcomers to the neighbourhood and Congregation.
3. To introduce them to the Minister and Officers of the Guild.
4. To invite them, if suitable, to a Class Meeting.
5. To enlist them in some branch of Christian work.
6. To follow with letters of recommendation those who remove to other places.

Departments and Sections

The Sections may be either Societies already in existence, and, with the approval of their members, affiliated to the Guild, or new branches of work initiated by the Executive of the Guild, and under its direct control.

With the exception of the Devotional Meeting and Look-out Committee they are not essential to the Guild, though in the vast majority of cases some, at least, will be found helpful.

N.B.—For classification of branches suitable for affiliation see 1896, pp. 454, 455.

Annual Guild Festival

Once a year a Guild Festival shall be held, to include the following features :

1. A Public Meeting to bring the work of the Guild and its sections before the whole Church and Congregation.
2. A Service for the Recognition of members of the Guild who have been received into the Church during the year. The Quarterly or Annual Service for the Re-

cognition of new Members of the Church might be arranged for at such a time as to include the above.

3. The raising of local Funds for carrying on the work of the Guild.

N.B.—In the above Scheme, the following features contained in Section II., relating to the local Constitution of Guilds, are essential, and are unalterable except by consent of the Conference:—Name, Definition, Essentials, Pledges, Guild Meetings, Look-Out Committee, and Annual Guild Festival.

THE JUNIOR GUILD

Name

The Junior Wesley Guild, ————— Branch.

Membership

All members of Junior Society Classes, and others under fifteen, shall be eligible for membership.

Pledge

‘As a Junior member of the Guild, I will pray and read my Bible every day, and will try to live a Christian life.’

Committee

The Committee shall consist of the Leaders of Junior Society Classes, who shall represent the Junior Guild as a working section upon the Local Guild Executive.

United Meetings

United Meetings shall be held once a month, or twice a quarter.

The Junior Leaders may preside in turn, another giving a short address, and the children bringing passages of Scripture on some subject decided beforehand.

Once a quarter the United Meeting should be of a social and musical character.

Look-Out Committee

A Look-Out Committee should be formed of the boys and girls themselves, to invite and introduce new members, and to help in arranging the United Meetings.

Sections

These will be such societies as will help to awaken among the members a spirit of kindness and service. Each should be under the special direction of one member of the Committee.

N.B.—For list of such sections, see 1896, p. 457.

OTHER REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE GUILD

Circuit Guild Returns

An Annual Return shall be presented to the District Synods showing the number of Guilds in each Circuit, the places at which they are held, and the name and address of the Secretary of each Guild ; and a Minister shall be appointed for each District at the September Synod to prepare this information (*Journal*, 1904 ; *Minutes*, 1905, p. 402).

The Conference directs that the Circuit Guild Returns which are prepared for the Synod shall be submitted to, and considered by, the March Quarterly Meeting in the same way as other Departmental Returns (1907, p. 84).

Local Sunday School Council

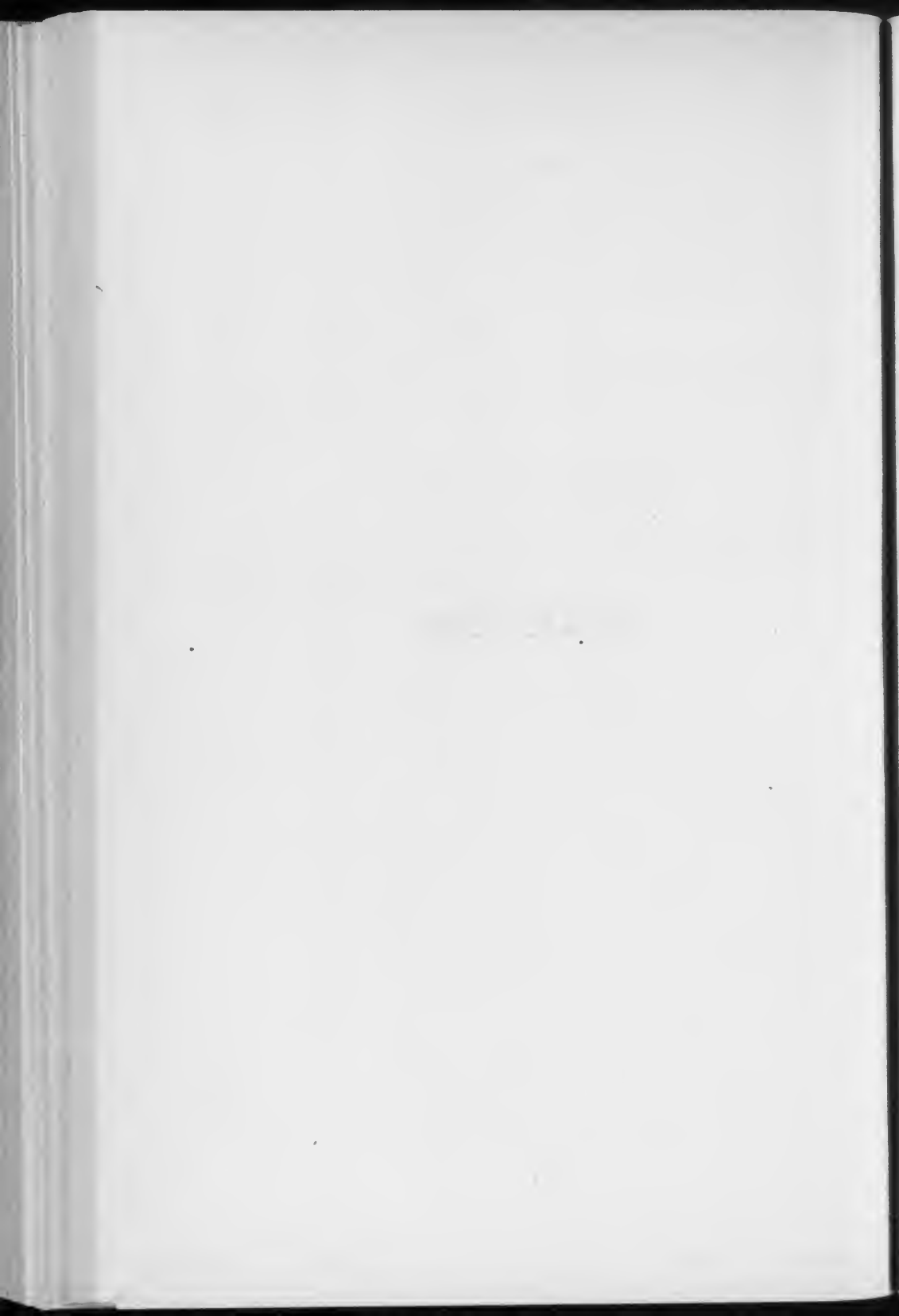
N.B.—1. The General Secretary of a Wesley Guild connected with a Church is considered to be an Officer of the Sunday School, if seventeen years of age or upwards. As such he is a member of the Local Sunday School Council. See 1911, p. 511.

2. The Wesley Guild is not under the control of the Local Sunday School Council. See *The Manual of the Wesleyan Methodist Sunday School*, p. 15 note.

Connexional Sunday School Council

N.B.—The Connexional Secretary of the Wesley Guild is an *ex-officio* member of the Connexional Sunday School Council. See 1911, p. 515.

MINISTERS



I. CANDIDATES FOR THE MINISTRY

Marks of a Call to Preach

Q. How shall we try those who think they are moved by the Holy Ghost to preach the Gospel?

A. Inquire, Do they know God as a pardoning God? Have they the love of God abiding in them? Do they desire and seek nothing but God? And are they holy in all manner of conversation? Have they gifts as well as grace for the work? Have they a clear, sound understanding? Have they a right judgement in the things of God? Have they a just conception of salvation by faith? And has God given them an acceptable way of speaking? Do they speak justly, readily, and clearly? Have they had any fruit of their labour? Have any been truly convinced of sin, and converted to God, by their preaching?

As long as the above marks concur in any one, we believe he is called of God to preach. These we receive as sufficient proof that he is moved thereto by the Holy Ghost (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 677).

Accredited Local Preachers

See pp. 169, 170.

Candidates to be Carefully Selected

If possible, increasing care shall be taken in all the Circuits in the selection of Candidates (1886, p. 203). See p. 169.

Educational Standard

No Candidate for the Ministry shall be received who does not possess a fair acquaintance with English Grammar, Orthography, Arithmetic, Geography, and History (1878, p. 187).

Standard Doctrinal Works to be Read

See p. 170.

Methodist Discipline to be Approved

See pp. 169, 170.

Residential Qualification

See p. 170.

Circuit Quarterly Meeting

See pp. 168, 169.

Superintendent Ministers' Sons

See p. 267.

Lay Agents

See p. 171.

Examinations

N.B.—For fuller particulars of the Examinations and for advice as to preparation for them, reference should be made to the *Manual of Directions for the use of Candidates for the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry*. See 1911, p. 327.

Preliminary Examination

1. This Examination shall be conducted before the Session of the District Synod, and include (a) one three

hours' paper on the *English Bible*, requiring a general knowledge of Scripture History, and of the nature and contents of the Old and New Testaments (see *Manual for Candidates*, pp. 18-20, 24-26); (b) one three hours' paper including the following subjects:

(i) *An Exercise in English Composition*. Four alternative subjects shall be set, from which the Candidate shall choose one. Not more than three-quarters of an hour shall be spent upon this exercise. The subjects will be varied in character, and will represent topics in which Preachers should be interested. In marking, regard will be paid to quality rather than quantity.

(ii) *English Grammar and Easy Analysis*.

(iii) *English History and General Geography*.

(iv) *Arithmetic up to Decimal Fractions*.

The questions will be of an elementary character, to be more precisely described in the syllabus supplied to intending Candidates.

Superintendents of Circuits are instructed to impress upon Candidates for the Ministry the importance of a thorough knowledge of the English Bible.

2. The two papers of the Preliminary Examination shall be set and marked by Examiners nominated yearly by the Sub-Committee of Studies of the Theological Institution. Two Examiners shall be appointed for paper (a), and two for paper (b). The questions shall be submitted in proof to three Ministers appointed year by year by the Conference.

The answers shall be written in the presence of the Superintendents of the Circuits by which the Candidates are recommended, or of one or more other Ministers (1902, pp. 332, 333; 1914, pp. 350, 351).

3. No Candidate shall be excused from the Pre-

liminary Examination on the ground that he has passed it in a former year (1885, p. 175).

4. Candidates who have passed an Examination qualifying for admission to any British University, or an equivalent examination, are exempt from the Preliminary Literary Examination (*Journal*, 1880; *Minutes*, 1893, p. 207; 1895, p. 204; 1914, p. 351).

5. The maximum for paper (a) shall be 100, and for (b) 100; the marks to be reported separately. The maximum attainable shall be printed against each question. In paper (b), 25 marks shall be assigned to each of the four sections; viz. (1) English Composition, (2) English Grammar and Analysis, (3) English History and Geography, (4) Arithmetic. The marks gained in paper (b) shall be subject to a deduction, not exceeding 10, for faulty spelling. Exemption from paper (b) shall be granted as heretofore. All Candidates must take paper (a). The marks and exemptions shall be reported to the Synods (1902, p. 333).

6. The Conference directs that the result of the Preliminary Examination be sent as at present to the Synods, to be regarded by them as elements in the data upon which they express judgement on every Candidate's general fitness for the work of the Ministry, and that the average number of marks gained at the Preliminary Examination be also reported to the Synods (1905, p. 369; 1914, pp. 351, 352).

N.B.—In 1914 the Conference adopted a Report on an Educational standard for Candidates for the Ministry. The Report is contained in the *Minutes* for 1914, pp. 651-3. The Conference directed that the Regulations contained in the Report should not come into operation until the meeting of the July Committee of 1916.

Direction to Examiners

The Conference resolves that :

1. With the view of standardizing the papers as far as possible, the attention of the Examiners should be directed to the *Manual of Directions for the Use of Candidates for the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry*, pp. 24-26, where it is indicated that the Biblical examination may require :

(1) A general knowledge of the course of Scripture History and of the lives of the principal characters ;

(2) A general knowledge of the times and circumstances of the several books and of their particular subjects and contents ; and

(3) Familiarity with the more important passages that bear distinctly on Christian Doctrine.

2. As the scope of the paper is so wide, it is advisable that a greater choice of questions should be allowed (1911, pp. 346, 347).

System of Marks

1. In valuing all Examinations and Trial Sermons, a system of marks by numbers from 1 to 7 shall be adopted ; number 1 being the highest value, and 7 the lowest.

2. The seven grades from 1 to 7 shall signify respectively, *Excellent, Very Good, Good, Fair, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor*.

3. The marks 1, 2, 3, shall denote three grades of an Honours Division ; and 4, 5, 6, 7, four grades in a Pass Division ; ' average ' quality being indicated by the mark 4 (*Fair*) (1888, p. 214).

First Trial Sermon

Every Preacher who is recommended for admission on Trial shall, at or before the time of the May District Synod, preach in the presence of, at least, three of the Ministers of the Synod, to be selected by the Chairman, exclusive of the Superintendent by whom the Candidate is proposed ; and a special Report of the Sermon shall be made in the District Synod, and immediately forwarded, in writing, to the Secretaries of the Committee for the Examination of Candidates (1844, vol. x., p. 91 ; 1893, p. 207).

N.B.—The Ministers appointed to hear the Sermon suggest the number of valuation. The District Synod fixes it.

Candidates from the Welsh Districts

1. Candidates from the Welsh Districts are required, when the offer is for the General Work, to preach two Sermons in connexion with the Annual District Synod, one in Welsh and one in English, and also to send in MS. Sermons in both English and Welsh (1891, p. 221 ; 1909, p. 348).

2. Candidates for the Ministry from the Welsh Districts, who are able to preach in English, and who pass their Examinations in English, shall be regarded as eligible for the General Work (1889, p. 317).

Character of Candidates

1. The Chairmen of Districts are required not only to examine very minutely, in their District Synods, all persons proposed to travel as Preachers among us, but also to report distinctly in their District Minutes, for the consideration of the Conference, the opinion of the

District Synod, after such Examination, respecting their health, piety, moral character, ministerial abilities, knowledge and belief of our Doctrines, attachment to our Discipline, and freedom from debt, as well as from all secular incumbrances. In the same District Minutes, the Preacher who recommends any Candidate shall state his age and sign a recommendatory Character of him, which may forthwith be copied, if the Conference receive such Candidate upon Trial, into the Book provided for that purpose (1810, vol. iii., p. 156 ; 1827, vol. vi., pp. 279, 280).

N.B.—The written Character, drawn up and signed by the Superintendent Minister who recommends the Candidate, should include references to the above-named particulars. It is required that in the written Character of a Candidate for the Ministry the Superintendent shall give information as to whether there has been fruit of the Candidate's preaching. See 1913, p. 335.

2. In case of a Matrimonial Engagement, the suitability of the lady should be certified to the District Synod by the Superintendent Minister, and by the District Synod to the July Committee. See *Circular of the General Examination Secretaries*.

Superintendent Ministers' Sons

Whenever a Superintendent recommends his son as a Candidate for the Ministry, the Character of the Candidate shall be signed also by his Colleague or Colleagues. In cases in which the Superintendent is appointed to a solitary Station, the Character of the Candidate shall be countersigned by the Chairman of the District (1898, p. 253).

Married Candidates

1. Let no married Preacher be received unless he can bring in writing such an account of his income, signed by the Superintendent, as shall satisfy the Conference.
2. If any person shall propose to maintain a Preacher's Wife or Children, he shall give a bond to the Conference for the sum he is to allow (1791, vol. i., p. 254).

Married Candidates' Pledge

The following Pledge shall be signed by all married Candidates for the Ministry: 'I, the undersigned, do hereby promise and declare that I undertake to provide all needful supplies for my Wife during the four years of my probation as a Wesleyan Minister; also, that any Child or Children I may now have, or that may be born to me during the years of my probation, shall be supported by me, without any charge or claim upon the Children's Fund, or any other Funds of the Connexion, during the period of their natural lives; and that my only claim for any expenses or charges during the years of my ministerial probation shall be for the usual quarter-ages and charges of an unmarried Minister.' (Signed.)

'We the undersigned, guarantee that the above obligations shall be faithfully met and observed.' (Signed.)
(*Journal*, 1861.)

Memorandum of Agreement

1. The Memorandum of Agreement between the Conference and Candidates from other Conferences and Churches shall apply in all particulars to married men who are accepted in the ordinary way as Candidates for the Ministry; and the payments required therein shall

be made, and the privileges described therein shall begin to be enjoyed, in both cases, at the time of their admission into Full Connexion with the Conference (1882, p. 289; 1886, p. 297).

2. The following is the revised scale of payments to be made to the Connexional Funds by Ministers received from other Conferences or Churches, and married men received as Candidates :

- (1) To the Home Mission Fund £160.
- (2) To the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children.. £80 for each child.
- (3) To the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund .. £7 for each year counted, upon admission by the Conference.

N.B.—(1) In view of the fact that, ordinarily, claims upon the Maintenance Section of the Children's Fund do not arise during the first five years of a Minister's term of service; and seeing that the Memorandum of Agreement does not contemplate the case of married men being received into the Wesleyan Methodist Church who may have children born during their probation, the scale of payments is revised so as to meet the equity of such cases, viz. that for each year of probation in which no claim arises one-fifth of the amount charged for maintenance shall be remitted.

(2) The amount charged for maintenance shall be fully paid up before such Probationer is received into Full Connexion, and before his child is admitted as a claimant upon the Fund.

(3) A written acknowledgement of every such arrangement shall be signed by the father of the child, and be preserved by the General Secretary.

(4) Where desired, payments to the Education Section of the Fund, entitling a child to receive the usual Education Allowances, may be spread over a period of years until the child is nine years of age; simple interest, at 5 per cent., being charged until the full amount has been paid; and until such time no claim for Educational Allowance shall be admitted (*Minutes*, 1906, pp. 27, 361, 362). See p. 494.

Examination at District Synod

1. The Chairmen of Districts are required . . . to examine very minutely, in their District Synods, all persons proposed to travel as Preachers among us (1810, p. 156).

2. It is the acknowledged right, and, under existing circumstances, the indispensable duty, of every Chairman of a District to ask all Candidates for Admission upon Trial amongst us, if they believe the doctrine of the Eternal Sonship of our Lord Jesus Christ as it is stated by Mr. Wesley, especially in his Notes upon the First Chapter of the Epistle to the Hebrews, to be agreeable to the Holy Scriptures (1827, vol. vi., p. 280),

N.B.—The District Synod fixes the number showing its valuation of the Oral Examination. For *System of Marks* see p. 265.

Exceptional Cases

District Synods are empowered to examine by Special Committee those Candidates who, for exceptional reasons, are prevented from being present at the appointed time

of Examination ; every such case to be specially recorded in the Minutes of the Synod, and reported to the Conference (1892, p. 204 ; 1906, p. 323).

Baptism

N.B.—It is usual to ask each Candidate if he has been baptized.

Voting

1. The voting of the Annual District Synods in relation to Candidates for the Ministry shall be notified to the Special Examination Committee (*Daily Record*, 1863 ; *Journal*, 1877).

2. In all voting upon Candidates proposed for the Ministry in the District Synod, the number of neutrals shall be recorded (1894, p. 226).

Second Trial Sermon

1. Arrangements shall be made by the May District Synod for the hearing of each Candidate by three Ministers of the District, other than those who have heard him before his recommendation by the Synod ; and such Ministers shall suggest a mark and immediately forward their Report to [the Secretary named in the *Minutes of the Conference*]. (1889, p. 194 ; 1892, p. 204 ; 1908, pp. 354, 355.) See also *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 57.

2. In the case of Candidates from the Zetland District, arrangements shall be made by the Secretaries of the Committee for the Examination of Candidates for the second Trial Sermon to be preached in England (1893, p. 208).

Manuscript Sermon

Three different Trial Sermons are required from each Candidate ; two preached, and one sent in manuscript to the Secretaries of the Special Examination Committee (1889, p. 193).

Designation of Candidates

See pp. 278, 279.

Communications with Special Examination Committee

N.B.—All communications relating to Candidates, and the Reports on their Sermons heard after the District Synods, must be addressed to the Secretary named in the *Minutes* for the current year.

Special Examination Committee

The Special Examination of Candidates for the Ministry, who have passed the District Synods, shall be conducted by a Committee in two Sections, having charge of Examinations, to be held simultaneously at Richmond and Didsbury respectively (1874, vol. xix., pp. 435, 436).

N.B.—For date of holding Committee, see *Minutes* for current year.

Constitution

See *Minutes* for current year.

N.B.—I. Twenty-one Ministers of the three London Districts, seven of whom shall be elected by the May Synod in each of the said Districts, are members of the Southern Section of the Committee.

Twenty-one Ministers of the Liverpool, Manchester, and Bolton Districts, seven of whom shall be elected by the May Synod of each of the said Districts, are members of the Northern Section of the Committee (1874, vol. xix., p. 436 ; 1875, vol. xix., p. 692 ; 1906, pp. 323, 324).

The elections shall in every case be by ballot (1906, p. 324).

2. The Secretary of the Conference is a member, *ex officio*, of that section of the Committee which meets in the part of the country in which he resides (*Journal*, 1904).

N.B.—The Welsh Candidates are examined at the Southern and Northern Sections in alternate years ; a Minister appointed by the Welsh Assembly is a member of the Section at which such Candidates appear. See p. 274.

Manuscript Sermon Sub-Committees

1. Two Sub-Committees, to read and report on the manuscript Sermons of the Candidates, shall be annually appointed as follows : one for the Southern Section, consisting of nine Ministers, three of whom shall be chosen by the District Synods of each of the three London Districts from among the Ministers elected by it as members of the Examination Committee ; and another for the Northern Section, consisting of nine Ministers, three of whom shall be chosen by the District Synods of the Liverpool, Manchester, and Bolton Districts respectively, from among the Ministers elected by them as members of the Examination Committee (1874, vol. xix., p. 436 ; 1881, p. 202).

2. Each manuscript Sermon shall be read by two of the Ministers so appointed, and a meeting of the Sub-

Committee thereafter held, when the Reports of the readers shall be considered and the valuation fixed which shall be recommended to the Committee (1899, p. 229).

Examiners of Theological Papers

See pp. 265, 277.

Distribution of Candidates

Candidates from the London Districts shall be summoned to the Northern Examination, and Candidates from the Liverpool, Manchester, and Bolton Districts to the Southern Examination; all other Candidates shall be summoned at the discretion of the General Examination Secretaries, with due regard to the cost of travelling (1876, vol. xx., p. 135; 1902, p. 339).

Candidates from the Welsh Districts

Candidates from the First and Second North Wales and the South Wales Districts shall be examined alternately by the two Sections of the Examination Committee; and a Minister appointed by the Welsh Assembly shall be a member of the Section at which such Candidates appear (1886, p. 195; 1892, p. 207; 1903, p. 343; 1913, p. 339).

Candidates from Ireland for Foreign Mission Work

1. All Candidates from Ireland for Mission Work shall pass through the usual Circuit and District Courts in Ireland, and be accepted by the Irish Conference as for its own Ministry.

2. Candidates for the Ministry, accepted by the Irish Conference, who offer themselves for Foreign Mission Work, and have been approved by the Wesleyan Mis-

sionary Society, and who, at the termination of their service abroad are intended to return to the work in Ireland, shall not in future be required to appear before the July Committee in England.

3. If accepted by the British Conference, they shall be allocated as Students to one or other of the Branches of the Theological Institution.

4. Any of these Candidates who, through failure of health, or from any other cause, do not enter the Mission Work, shall return to the Irish Conference, and be dealt with as its accepted Candidates.

5. Those Candidates who, after completing their course at the Institution, enter upon Mission Work, shall thenceforward be dealt with as being under and in connexion with the British Conference, and on their return home shall be on equal terms with British Missionaries returning in similar circumstances (1886, pp. 203, 204 ; 1907, p. 346 ; 1914, p. 370).

Contributions to Theological Institution

See pp. 292, 293.

Literary and Theological Examination

1. The Literary Paper for the Examination shall be prepared, in succession, by the Tutors in Biblical Literature and in Classics of each of the four Branches of the Theological Institution ; and the Theological Paper for the Examination shall be prepared, in succession by, the Theological Tutors of the said four Branches.

2. The Tutors in Biblical Literature and in Classics of the Richmond and Handsworth Branches shall be the Literary Examiners for the Southern Section of the Committee ; and the Tutors in Biblical Literature and in

Classics of the Didsbury and Headingley Branches shall be the Literary Examiners for the Northern Section of the Committee.

3. (i) There are now four papers in all, which may bear the following titles :

(A) THEOLOGICAL : Part I. (on the English Bible),
taken in April.

Part II. (on Christian Doctrine),
taken in July.

(B) LITERARY : Part I. (Composition, Grammar,
History and Geography, and
Arithmetic), taken in April.

Part II. (General), taken in July.

(ii) The written examination papers at the July Committee shall each be set for three hours, as follows :

(A) THEOLOGICAL, Part II.

The questions set shall test the Candidate's knowledge of the leading doctrines of Evangelical Theology as taught in our Church. Special importance will be attached to accuracy in quoting Scripture ; and it will be assumed that Candidates have carefully studied Wesley's *Sermons* and his *Notes on the New Testament*.

(B) LITERARY, Part II. The paper will include :

(a) *English Language and Literature*.

(β) *General History*.

(γ) *Mathematics* :

Higher Arithmetic,

Algebra to Simultaneous Equations,

Euclid, Bk. I.

(δ) *Elementary Science and Logic*.

Alternative questions will be set in various subjects.

(ε) *Latin and Greek.*

(ξ) *French and German.*

(iii) The marks in the two sections of the July Examination shall be presented to the July Committee like those of the Preliminary Examination, in percentage and not in grades, and without being combined with the Preliminary marks.

4. The Examiners of the Papers in Theology, written by the Candidates, shall be appointed as follows: the Three London, the Liverpool, the Manchester, and the Bolton District Synods shall each appoint one Examiner from among the Ministers elected by it as members of the Examination Committee; thus providing three Examiners for each of the two Sections (1906, pp. 324-6; 1910, p. 349; 1914, pp. 354, 355).

Medical Examination

In connexion with each Section of the Committee, two Medical Examiners shall be employed, one of whom shall be a specialist on residence in a tropical climate (1890, p. 202).

N.B.—A Medical Certificate, given by a local doctor, must be sent to the Secretaries before the meeting of the Committee.

Oral Examination

The Theological Tutors shall as a rule conduct the Oral Examination of Candidates before the Committee, but the Committee in both Sections is empowered to ask any other member of the Committee to assist if so desired (1892, p. 205; 1908, p. 340; 1909, p. 344). For *System of Marks*, see p. 265.

Number of Candidates Required

The Designation Committee shall annually advise the Conference as to the number of Candidates required for the Ministry (1889, p. 203 ; 1906, p. 337).

N.B.—An intimation of the number is given to the Special Examination Committee.

Designation of Candidates

1. The Conference resolves that the questions on the Schedules sent to Candidates after the District Synod shall read as follows :

In offering yourself as a Candidate for the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry you are reminded that the Designation of Accepted Candidates for the Ministry to their sphere of labour is in the hands of the Conference, and takes place normally at the close of the Student's second year of residence at College. In offering yourself as a Candidate you are asked at the present stage to give a careful answer to the following questions :

(a) Are you free to offer yourself unreservedly for the service of the Church to work either at Home or Abroad as you may be designated ?

(b) If you have any reserve or special conviction in the matter explain it fully.

N.B.—The Schedule which has been in recent years placed in the hands of the Students during their second year at College shall be discontinued (1911, p. 334).

2. Accepted Candidates who have expressed a preference for Foreign Work shall be sent, if possible, at once to College.

3. Accepted Candidates, sent to the Theological Institution, shall not be designated for Home or Foreign Work till after two years' residence there.

4. The recommendation of the Local Discipline Committee regarding each man shall be sent to the Designation Committee; which shall thereupon prepare for Conference lists of men whom it recommends for Home and Foreign Work respectively.

5. In cases where the July Committee recommends a man for immediate service, that Committee shall also advise the Conference as to whether he should be appointed to Home or Foreign Work (1906, pp. 327, 328; 1911, pp. 334, 335). See pp. 644-46.

Business not to be Relinquished

1. Let no Preacher, or number of Preachers, encourage any person to give up his business, and prepare to travel, without the authority of the Conference (1800, vol. ii., p. 58).

2. Each Candidate shall be informed that his reception by the Conference, as a Candidate for the Ministry, does not involve any obligation to employ him in a Circuit, or send him to the Institution forthwith, but that the Conference will deal with each case as circumstances may require. . . . It is exceedingly undesirable that any Candidate should leave his situation without Official notice (*Journal*, 1879).

Candidates and the Conference

The names of the Candidates who come before the Candidates' Examination Committee shall be presented to the Conference in four sections: (1) Those who are unanimously recommended; (2) Those who are recommended by a divided vote (in recording the voting, the number of neutrals shall be given); (3) Those who are declined by a divided vote; (4) Those who are unani-

mously declined (1890, p. 203 ; 1892, p. 207 ; 1906, p. 328 ; 1908, p. 344).

N.B.—When a Candidate has been recommended by a divided vote in the Examination Committee, he shall be only provisionally accepted until the entire list of Candidates has been considered, when the Conference shall finally decide his case (1894, p. 208).

STUDENTS

Candidates and the Theological Institution

1. Except when the Conference directs otherwise, accepted Candidates shall be sent forthwith to the Institution (1886, p. 203).

2. In the case of Candidates for the Ministry, who are on the President's List of Reserve, and have been sent into Circuits during the year, the District Synods to which they may belong are directed to express an opinion as to the desirability, or otherwise, of their admission to the Institution (1879, pp. 251, 252).

Allocation of Accepted Candidates

All Candidates accepted for training in the Theological Institution shall be allocated to the different Colleges as follows :

1. Those shall be allocated to Didsbury who wish to graduate in Arts and Science in any University, and those who, in the opinion of the Allocation Committee, are thought fit to seek in Manchester a degree in Divinity.

2. Each year one of the other three Colleges shall be chosen in rotation to receive all the Candidates reading for a Divinity degree in other Universities. Each Student shall remain until the close of his course at the College to which he is sent.

3. This arrangement shall be adhered to without exception, save in case of absolute necessity (1910, p. 571).

Headingley College and Arts Course

The Conference resolves that permission be given for not more than six selected Students, who have matriculated at a University, to take the Arts Course at the Leeds University while residing at Headingley College; such course extending over three years, during which years the cost of each such Student to the Theological Institution Fund shall be regarded as £35 per annum; and subsequently to remain at Headingley College for two further years for the usual course there, provided that satisfactory guarantees are given for the extra cost involved; the Students in question to be selected, if possible, from among the Candidates who will commence their residence at College in September, 1913 (1913, p. 48).

Scheme of Tuition

The Conference resolves that some method be adopted of bringing the four Branches of the Institution into closer association for the purposes of tuition. With a view to the gradual accomplishment of this close association of the Colleges for educational purposes the Conference directs:

1. That as soon as practicable the term of residence of Students at the Theological Institution be extended to four years.

2. (a) That the course of study at the several Colleges be so arranged as more fully to meet the cases of Candidates of different attainments.

(b) That in the allocation of Candidates due regard be

had to the principle of sending men to that College whose course will best meet their special needs.

(c) That, as at present, every Student be taught the Greek Testament ; and that, in the case of such Students as are not recommended by their Tutors to take Hebrew or Latin, arrangements be made for special instruction in the English Bible, English Literature and History, Philosophy, and kindred subjects.

(d) That as far as possible those Candidates who are likely to matriculate be sent to the same College, at which special provision shall be made for their help.

(e) That Students pursuing a University career in Arts study at the College to which Candidates for matriculation are assigned ; that Students pursuing a University course in Divinity study at one or more of the other Colleges ; and that in each of these Colleges suitable arrangements be made for the instruction of these Students. See p. 281.

(f) That Students preparing for the final B.D. Examination be as a rule sent to the same College.

3. That in view of the increasing need of specialization in Biblical and Theological studies arrangements be made for the appointment of Tutors to devote themselves respectively to Hebrew and Old Testament studies, to Greek and New Testament studies, and to Church History and Patristic Literature (1902, pp. 109, 110).

Training of Candidates for the Welsh Ministry

1. In cases in which Candidates for the Ministry recommended by the Welsh Synods possess exceptional qualifications, and in which the District Synod and the Examination Committee are of opinion that a course of training at a Welsh University College would be of

special advantage to the Candidates and to our work in the Principality, such Candidates may be permitted to spend some time in connexion with a University College, without cost to any Connexional Fund, before they are formally recognized and accepted as Candidates for the Ministry by the Conference.

2. While pursuing his studies at a University College, every such Candidate shall be placed under the special pastoral care of a Minister resident in the town in which the College is situated, who shall present a special Report on his conduct and preaching work during the year to the District Synod and to the Welsh Assembly.

3. At the close of his term of study at the University College, every such Candidate shall, on the recommendation of the District Synod, and provided the Conference be satisfied as to his continued fitness for our work, be fully accepted as a Candidate for the Ministry, and shall afterwards receive such training in our Institution as the Conference may direct.

4. The Conference appoints Didsbury College as the place where Candidates who are members of the Welsh University may qualify for a degree in Theology (1897, p. 229 ; 1899, p. 232 ; 1900, p. 214).

University Graduates

Candidates for the Ministry who have obtained a degree in any University of the United Kingdom, or have passed any equivalent Examination—e.g. the Final Examination of the Incorporated Law Society, or of the Royal College of Surgeons—shall not of necessity spend the full term of three years in the Theological Institution ; but, on the recommendation of their Tutors and Local and General Discipline Committees, the term of

their residence may be shortened. And, in such cases, their probation shall commence at the Conference next ensuing (1885, p. 185 ; 1887, pp. 237, 238 ; 1899, p. 362 ; 1913, p. 365). See pp. 299, 300.

Missionary Students

1. A proportion of the Missionary Candidates shall be trained in the Home Branches of the Theological Institution, and any vacancies so created at Richmond shall be filled up with Candidates for the Home Work. Not more than one-third, nor fewer than one-fourth, of the Candidates allocated in each year to the Richmond Branch shall be Candidates for the Home Work ; and an equal number of Candidates for the Foreign Work shall be distributed among the Home Branches. All Students for the Foreign Work who, having completed their term, may be placed on the List of Reserve, shall be provided for at the Richmond Branch.

2. The Conference recognizes that the Richmond Estate must remain the property of the Missionary Society, subject to the Trusts of the Deed. See 1910, p. 63 ; 1911, p. 11.

3. In all the Colleges instruction shall be regularly given on the subject of the history and working of Christian Missions, and also on the history of non-Christian religious systems.

4. All Missionary Students shall, as far as possible, have three full years' training before entrance upon their work ; where practicable, they shall be designated at the end of their second year ; the field of their future labours shall be kept in view in the instruction given them during the remainder of their residence, and for

such Students, wherever possible, elementary instruction in Medicine and handicrafts shall be provided.

5. Having regard to the special requirements of Students who may be intended for the East, such Students, after the completion of the usual course, shall, as far as may be found practicable, be allowed to remain in the Institution an additional year with a view to their instruction in subjects having direct reference to their intended work (1885, p. 240). See pp. 291, 292.

Reports to Conference

The names of all accepted Candidates for the Ministry shall be placed in the Journal of the Conference, and till an appointment to a Circuit, or other Connexional work be made, a Report shall be presented year by year, in each case—by the President of those on the List of Reserve, and by the Principal or Governor of the Branches of the Theological Institution (*Daily Record*, 1874; *Journal*, 1877). See pp. 289–91.

Students and District Synods

While a Student continues in the Theological Institution, even although he is regarded as having travelled one year, his name shall not appear in the printed *Minutes*; and he shall not be subject to the jurisdiction of any District Synod, but only to that of the authorities of the Institution and of the Conference (*Daily Record*, 1869; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 514).

Government of the Colleges

1. The government of the College, in all its relations, pastoral, disciplinary, educational, and administrative, shall be in the hands of the United Staff, who shall meet

regularly under the Chairmanship of one of their number appointed by the Conference. The Chairman shall be designated Principal, and, as representing the Staff, shall be responsible to the Conference for the efficient working of the College in all its relations. The use of the title 'Governor of the Institution House' shall be discontinued. The Principal shall reside in the Institution House unless the Conference shall otherwise determine.

N.B.—At the present time (1915) there is 'a Governor of the Institution House' at one of the Colleges.

2. If the Principal be not resident in the Institution House, the Conference shall appoint as Resident Tutor one of the Staff, who, in addition to his teaching duties, shall have immediate authority in, and charge of, the internal administration and discipline of the Institution House.

3. The spiritual and pastoral oversight of the Students shall be regarded as the first care of each of the Tutors. The supreme concern of our Institution is the spiritual culture of the Students, and this can be fully attained only by the maintenance of close pastoral relations between all the members of the Staff and the men under their charge. The exact method of accomplishing this will be decided by the Tutors' Meeting.

4. The Assistant Tutor or Tutors of each College shall be *ex officio* members of the Tutors' Meeting.

5. The Resident Tutor or Principal shall be relieved, as far as possible, of the administrative duties hitherto discharged by the House Governor. He shall also be authorized to obtain clerical help for purposes of correspondence, book-keeping, etc.

6. The House Committee shall be directly responsible to the Local Executive Committee for the fabric

of the College and of the Tutors' Houses, for the maintenance of the same in good condition and in sanitary order, and for all the expenditure of the Institution. In the intervals of the meetings of the House Committee, the Resident Tutor, acting, where necessary, in conjunction with the Principal and Local Treasurers, shall be the representative of the House Committee.

7. The House Committee shall consist of the Principal, the Local Treasurers, the Local Secretary, four Ministers, and four Laymen (to be elected by the Local Executive). If the Principal be non-resident, the Resident Tutor shall be a member of the House Committee (1910, pp. 572, 573; 1911, p. 563).

Discipline

1. The period of Trial of all Students shall be made more definite and thorough; and all Candidates entering the Theological Institution shall be regarded as on Trial for studentship for a year.

2. Every Candidate shall be distinctly told that he is subject to special trial as to his fitness for continuing on the List of Candidates for the Ministry, and a Report by a duly appointed Committee shall be presented to the Conference year by year.

3. The Chairmen of Synods shall be instructed to inform Candidates concerning this Rule at the time of their recommendation by the Synods (1910, pp. 571, 572).

Discipline Committees

1. The General Discipline Committee shall consist of all the members of the Local Discipline Committees who are also members of the General Committee of the Theo-

logical Institution, and shall meet at the least twice a year; the first Meeting to be in anticipation of the second Meeting of the General Committee of the Theological Institution, and the second to take place before the fourth Meeting of the same General Committee.

2. Each Local Discipline Committee shall meet quarterly, and at every Meeting inquiry shall be made whether there is any objection to each Student.

N.B.—This inquiry shall include all questions affecting his moral and religious character, observance of College Rules, attention to studies, preaching ability, competency for our work, and health. See p. 290.

3. In any case of discipline, when the Local Discipline Committee shall so decide, a Meeting of the General Discipline Committee shall be called to consider the case; and on receiving notice thereof, the General Secretary shall, in consultation with the President of the Conference, arrange for such Meeting. The place and time shall be fixed by the President.

4. Subject to the foregoing provision, the Local Discipline Committees shall retain the power of summary action in urgent cases, and in cases of idleness or incompetence.

5. The Local Discipline Committee, on dismissing a Student from College, shall have power to determine all points concerning his status, employment, and maintenance until the next Meeting of the General Discipline Committee, whose decision shall take effect until Conference.

6. All cases of discipline during the year, at any Branch of the Institution, shall be reported to the General Discipline Committee at its Meeting immediately before Conference.

7. The Principal or Governor of the Institution House shall answer for the Students to the Conference.

8. All questions affecting the moral conduct, theological soundness, and general behaviour of the Students shall, in accordance with the custom observed from the beginning of the Institution, be referred to the Discipline Committee of the Branch, and the Discipline Committee shall report to the Conference ; but in cases where the action of the Discipline Committee affects the residence of a Student, the action so taken shall be final, but shall be reported to the Executive Committee.

9. The Conference shall appoint from year to year for each Branch of the Institution ten Ministers, who, in addition to the Tutors and Secretary of such Branch, shall constitute the Discipline Committee (1892, pp. 208, 209 ; 1906, pp. 329-31 ; 1911, p. 338).

10. In accepting the Report of the Discipline Committee in regard to the reception as full Students of those who have been a year on probation, the vote of the Executive Committee shall be taken in each case separately (1883, p. 226 ; 1910, p. 571).

11. When it is decided by the Local and General Discipline Committees that on the ground of unsatisfactory progress, or for reasons of discipline, the full period of three years' training at College should in the case of any Student be shortened, the Ministerial Probation of such Student shall not be reckoned as beginning until the Conference at which he would have completed his three years' training (1892, pp. 208-10 ; 1899, p. 363). See *University Graduates*, pp. 283, 284.

Reports on Students

1. The Conference resolves that the attention of the

Local Discipline Committee of each College be called to the Regulation in *Minutes*, 1908, pp. 345, 346, that inquiry be made in respect of each Student as to all questions affecting his moral and religious character, the observance of College Rules, attention to studies, preaching ability, competence and fitness for our work, including health. See p. 288.

2. At the last Meeting of the Discipline Committee before Conference specific answers shall be given to these questions, and a Report made on every Student embodying the conclusions of each Local Discipline Committee.

3. At the end of his College course no Student shall be eligible for appointment who is not recommended by the General Discipline Committee, until his case has been considered by the Pastoral Session of the Conference.

4. A Committee shall be appointed to undertake the oversight of Preachers on Trial during the whole course of their probation. The final Report of the Local Discipline Committee on each Student leaving College shall be furnished to this Committee (1909, pp. 357, 358). See p. 312.

5. The Conference directs the Staffs and Discipline Committees of the Colleges to regard all Students as in reality on Trial, and faithfully to report on each Student, at least every year, as to his fitness for our work (1908, p. 355).

Special Discipline Committee

The Conference resolves that the work and fitness of every Student shall be fully reported upon year by year by a Special Committee of each Branch of the In-

stitution, consisting of the Tutors of that Branch, four other Ministers, and eight Laymen, who shall be chosen by the Local Executive Committee, but shall report to the General Discipline Committee (1910, p. 104 ; 1911, p. 340).

Local Executive Committees

See p. 286.

College House Committees

See pp. 286, 287.

Finance Sub-Committee of General Committee

The Sub-Committee is directed to meet before each Quarterly Meeting of the General Committee, to consider the Reports of the Principals or House Governor as to payments to and payments by Students, to examine the quarterly statements of the Local Treasurers, and generally to compare and watch the expenditure at the several Branches of the Institution (1882, p. 266).

Richmond College

1. It is desirable that the control and administration of all the Branches of the Theological Institution be placed under one authority.

2. This may be done by vesting such control and administration of the Richmond Branch in the General Committee of the Institution Fund, instead of, as heretofore, in the Missionary Executive.

3. If this be done, the Missionary Committee shall pay to the Institution Fund an agreed-upon yearly sum for each Student appointed to the work abroad, such

sum to cover all the costs involved in his training ; but to be subject to the deduction of any amount contributed by the said Student or his friends towards the said cost.

4. For the present that sum shall be £75 per annum ; but at the end of three years from the commencement of this arrangement, the actual cost per Student shall be calculated, and the amount as between the Missionary Society and the Fund adjusted by the then ascertained facts—so that neither organization shall make a profit out of the other, but that the actual expense, be it more or less than £75 per annum, and that only, shall be met. The sum to be paid for the next three years shall then be fixed ; and this triennial review and decision shall be a Standing Order (1910, pp. 62-64 ; 1911, p. 11).

Cost of Training Missionaries

The Conference directs that in cases in which a man spends the first ten years of his ministry partly in the Home Work and partly Abroad, the cost of his training shall be borne proportionately by the Home and the Missionary Funds, at the rate of one-tenth of the total cost for each year of service (1911, pp. 11, 49).

Contributions by Students

The Conference resolves with reference to the financial obligations of Candidates for the Ministry during their College course :

1. The full cost of maintenance and tuition at the Theological Institution is estimated at £65 per annum, and this sum each Student, who is in a position to do so, is expected to pay, or to have paid for him.

2. In cases in which the full cost cannot be met, payment of part of the same may be accepted, provided

the authorities are satisfied that all that is possible is given.

But all Candidates admitted to the Institution shall be expected to pay, or to have paid for them, at least the cost of their maintenance during their College course, viz.: £20 per annum; subject in special circumstances to abatement or remission accorded after private inquiry by the House Governor or Principal; it being distinctly understood that no Candidate shall be excluded from our Colleges merely on account of financial inability to meet these reasonable claims.

3. The present arrangement by which, in case of proved necessity, small grants of money are made to Students, shall remain in force.

4. The Conference directs the President to inform the General Treasurers of the Institution Fund of the resignation of any Probationer, or of any Minister who has not been ten years in the Full Work of the Ministry, in order that a list may be kept and application made to those who have not discharged their obligations in respect of their Institution training (1881, p. 251; 1887, p. 237; 1889, p. 205; 1909, p. 67; 1911, p. 50).

Travelling Expenses

The payment of the Travelling Expenses of the Students shall be discontinued (1879, p. 250).

Allowances

Allowances to Students shall be paid only in cases of proved necessity, the amount not to exceed £10 per annum; and instead of the question which has hitherto appeared in the Schedule, a separate document shall be prepared and forwarded to each Candidate for the

Ministry, to be filled up and signed by the Parent or Guardian of such Candidate, and countersigned by the Superintendent of the Circuit ; and the necessity for an allowance shall be proved to the General Committee through the Principal or Governor of the Branch to which the Candidate is appointed as a Student (1879, p. 250).

Dietary

Subject to the General Committee, the same dietary table shall be adopted in all the Branches, and the provision, while it is wholesome, nutritious, and sufficient, shall be plain (1879, p. 251).

Consultative Sub-Committee on Studies

The Conference appoints a Consultative Sub-Committee on Studies, the functions of which shall be :

1. To consider the Annual Time-tables and the Reports of the Tutors and Examiners.
2. To nominate Examiners for the several Branches.
3. To consider and advise on any matter affecting the aims to be kept in view and the methods to be employed in the studies and training of the Students in the Colleges of the Institution.
4. To provide an opportunity for mutual consultation among the Tutors of the various Branches, and with other gentlemen of experience.

The Sub-Committee shall report at least once a year to the General Committee (1902, p. 60).

N.B.—For *Social Facts and Problems*, see p. 298.

Curriculum

The Plan of Tuition for resident Students shall comprehend as many of the following subjects as, on a careful

consideration of the previous attainments and probable opportunities of the several Students, may be deemed suitable and practicable, viz. :

1. English Grammar, Composition, Elocution, Geography, and History ; and elementary instruction in the Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Chemistry, and in Logic, and the Philosophy of the Mind.

2. Theology : including the Evidences, Doctrines, Duties, and Institutions of Christianity, and having particular reference to those views of the Christian System, in its application to experimental and practical religion, which are held by our Body to be conformable to the Holy Scriptures. This will also include the general principles of Church Order and Government, connected with a distinct exposition of our own established Discipline, and of the proper methods of administering it for the purity, edification, and preservation of our Societies ; and a view of the nature and importance of the Pastoral Office and care, with special reference to the duties and engagements of a Methodist Preacher.

3. The elements of Biblical Criticism, the best methods of critically studying the Scriptures ; the rules and principles to be observed in their interpretation ; Hebrew, Greek, and Roman Antiquities ; and the outlines of Ecclesiastical History.

4. The most useful methods of direct preparation for the pulpit ; and general instructions for the composition and acceptable delivery of Sermons.

5. Such instruction in the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew languages, as may enable the Students to read and study the sacred Scriptures in their original tongues, and prepare them for the successful pursuit of further Classical and Biblical knowledge, when they shall be called into

Circuits or Missions. This branch of instruction may, however, be wholly omitted at the discretion of the Officers of the Institution, if, on examining the Student at his first admission, or subsequently, they shall deem it most expedient to confine his attention to the English and Theological Classes (1834, vol. vii., pp. 412, 413).

Further Resolutions concerning Curriculum

1. Whereas, according to the original plan of the Theological Institution, one of the cardinal subjects to be included in the system of instruction was defined to be ' the general principles of Church Order and Government, connected with a distinct exposition of our own established Discipline, and of the proper methods of administering it for the purity, edification, and preservation of our Societies, and a view of the nature and importance of the Pastoral Office and care, with special reference to the duties and engagements of a Methodist Preacher ' ; and whereas this subject has not hitherto been brought into sufficient prominence in the Curriculum and Time-table of the different Branches of the Institution, in future, the subject as above defined, especially so much of it as relates to the History, General Economy, and Discipline of Wesleyan Methodism, shall form a regular part of the system of instruction, and occupy a fixed place in the College Time-table (1880, p. 231).

2. Biblical Exegesis and Hermeneutics shall form a distinct and prominent part of the Curriculum in all the Branches ; and the Tutors in Hebrew and Greek Testament shall be charged with the responsibility of teaching them.

3. The Curriculum at all the Branches shall be

arranged so as to meet the requirements of the preceding Resolutions.

4. The Tutors of each Branch shall prepare and present to the General Committee, at its first Meeting after Conference, the Time-table which they propose to adopt.

5. At the discretion of the Tutors, the Greek reading of any of the Students may be limited to the Greek Testament.

6. The Resolution of the General Committee of July 5, 1873, is reaffirmed, viz: 'That no Student shall be allowed to read for the London or any other University unless he has matriculated before the time of his entrance into the Institution; or unless, in the united judgement of the Tutors of that Branch of the Institution with which he is connected, he is able to pursue his University reading without prejudice to the Theological and general course of study prescribed by the Conference.' And, further, at the commencement of every Session, each Student's relation to the University course shall be considered, in order to determine whether he shall be allowed to continue that course or not.

7. A Report from the Tutors in each department shall be annually presented through the Local Executive Committees to the General Committee (1880, pp. 231, 232).

N.B.—See *Missionary Students*, pp. 284, 285.

Modification of the Curriculum

1. Greater attention should be paid to the practical side of training for the Ministry, viz., the teaching of Pastoral Theology and Homiletics, including practice in Sermon-writing and Composition.

2. Fuller courses should be arranged for the study of the English Bible.

3. The English Language, Literature, and History might be more fully employed in the training of some of the Students.

4. The Staff should have power, if it be considered desirable, to exempt a Student from the study of Hebrew or Latin, and, in special cases, of Greek (1911, pp. 563, 564).

Connexional Principle

Full and special instruction on the subject of our Connexional principle shall be regularly given in our Theological Institution (1889, p. 288). See pp. 181, 182, 318.

Social Facts and Problems

1. Although the Curriculum is already crowded with subjects which cannot be omitted, and at the present time other important subjects are being urgently pressed, yet, if the systematic study of Social Facts and Problems must be added, formal instruction in those subjects should be given only to Students of the Third Year.

2. The course should be confined to the elucidation of Scriptural and Ethical principles, with guidance in reading. The names of text-books, if any, and the Syllabus of Lectures, should be reviewed by the Sub-Committee on Studies before the opening of each College year, and the work of the Students should be officially examined.

3. The Staff of each College should be instructed to submit annually to the Sub-Committee on Studies the proposals for the year following (1911, pp. 50, 51).

Fourth Year

In some rare cases, a fourth year's residence in the Institution shall be allowed to specially deserving Students; but in no instance shall such privilege be granted without the express sanction of the Conference (1875, vol. xix., p. 691). See *Standing Orders in Minutes* for current year, Part I. ; also pp. 281, 300.

End of College Course

See p. 290.

Designation of Students

1. Towards the end of the College year, the men of the second year in each College shall have opportunity to state whether they have any strong desire to make any change in their offer, and the reasons for such change (1906, p. 327). See pp. 278, 279.

2. The Conference authorizes one of the Missionary Secretaries to attend the Meeting of each Local Discipline Committee of the Theological Institution at which the designation of the Students is considered (1907, p. 344).

Commencement of Probation

1. The term of residence in the Institution shall be, except in special cases, three years.

2. Every Student who has completed his term of three years in the Theological Institution, and is duly certified by the Local and General Discipline Committees, shall be regarded as commencing his probation at the Conference next ensuing, except in the case in which a Candidate has received an appointment before entering College; and he shall be entitled, after being

received into Full Connexion, to the usual Allowances of a Minister in Full Connexion.

But if he shall be specially recommended to return to the Institution for a fourth year's course of study, he shall, in the year immediately after he has been received into Full Connexion, be entitled only to the Allowances of an unmarried Minister. This Resolution does not carry any disability with regard to any other Funds than the Home Mission Fund.

N.B.—These new arrangements shall only take effect in those cases where the probation begins in 1912 or subsequently.

3. In the case of Students who have not completed their term at the Institution (whether in their first, second, or third year of residence) but are called out by the President to supply before Christmas, the year shall, in accordance with our ancient usage, be reckoned as the first of their probation.

4. Students who have not completed their term at the Institution but are called out to meet special emergencies, shall, when their services are no longer required by the President, return to the Institution to complete their term (*Journal*, 1873 ; 1877, vol. xx., p. 515 ; 1889, p. 204 ; 1899, pp. 361, 362 ; 1900, pp. 350, 351 ; 1913, pp. 364, 365 ; 1914, pp. 382, 383). See pp. 283, 284.

Calling out Supplies from the Institution

Before calling out any Student to supply, the President shall consult with the Staff of the College in which the Student resides (1899, p. 363).

Students who have Completed their Term

1. Students who have completed their term at the Institution, and were not called out during their third

year by the President, and have not received appointments at the Conference, shall be placed on the President's List of Reserve (1889, p. 311 ; 1913, p. 366).

2. Students who have completed their term at the Institution, but were called out during the previous year by the President, yet have not received appointments at the Conference, are under the care and at the cost of the Home Mission Committee (1889, p. 311).

3. Students who have completed their term at the Institution, and have been sent by the President as Supplies, shall, when their services are no longer required, be placed by the President under the direction of the Home Mission Committee, which shall be responsible for their maintenance ; the Committee shall, however, be entitled to a week's notice from the President before such Student receives another appointment (1887, p. 260).

Vacation Supplies

The employment of Students as Supplies, otherwise than by the President, during their vacation, shall continue as heretofore to be matter of private arrangement, in regard to which neither the President nor the Home Mission Committee shall have responsibility ; except in those special cases in which the Home Mission Committee may grant Supplies, for short periods, to Chairmen of Districts (1887, p. 260).

List of Reserve

1. Except in special cases, the President's List of Reserve shall consist of men who have been trained in the Theological Institution.

2. The retiring President shall furnish to the Designa-

tion Committee a Report as to the health and fitness for our Work of those Probationers who have been, during the year, on his List of Reserve ; the Committee to report to the Conference.

At the commencement of the Pastoral Session of each Conference the retiring President shall furnish a list of the names and addresses of the Preachers on his List of Reserve, with particulars of their employment during the year. The list shall contain (1) the names of those sent out as Supplies by the President, with the date of appointment ; (2) the names of those employed under private arrangement.

3. All applications for the services of Probationers on the List of Reserve shall be forwarded to the President of the Conference not later than July 1 in each year ; and a Committee to classify the cases shall meet, when necessary, during the Sessions of each Conference. See *Standing Orders* concerning Supplies and Students in *Minutes* for current year.

Candidates on the List of Reserve

1. The Conference resolves that every accepted Candidate on the List of Reserve who is not appointed by the President shall be placed under the care of the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he resides, who shall be responsible for furnishing to the Designation Committee the required Report concerning the said Candidate.

2. Candidates on the List of Reserve who receive an appointment before Christmas shall take the prescribed course of Reading and Examination for Probationers of the first year. Such Candidates, when appointed after Christmas, shall be required to take a course of

Reading, to be prescribed by the Probationers' Examination Committee, varying according to the date of appointment. This Committee shall satisfy itself that its requirements have been observed, and shall report to the Designation Committee.

3. The Conference declares that proper time for study is essential to the work of our Probationers, and directs Superintendents of Circuits and Missions to arrange accordingly. The Conference directs the Secretary of the Examination Committee to report to the Designation Committee those cases in which, in consequence of pressure of special work, there has been comparative failure in the Examination for two successive years (1907, pp. 344, 345).

N.B.—For Probationers who are called out of College during the year see p. 300.

II. PROBATIONERS

Commencement of Probation

See p. 299.

Term of Probation

For the time to come, let Preachers be on Trial four years (1784, vol. i., p. 170).

Desisting from Travelling

See p. 635.

End of Probation

Q. As a positive law of our Body enjoins that no Travelling Preacher is to marry during his probation, when is that probation to be considered as terminated?

A. When he is received into Full Connexion with the Conference (1806, vol. ii., p. 349).

Resolutions on Pastoral Work

A copy of the *Resolutions on Pastoral Work* shall be presented by the Book Steward, under the direction of the Chairman of each District, to every Preacher on Trial on his first appointment to a Circuit (1885, p. 183). For the *Resolutions* see pp. 694-709.

Minutes of Conference

Each Minister and Preacher on Trial shall pay one shilling for the copy of the *Minutes* of the Conference . . . for his personal use. Supernumerary Ministers are not included in the above arrangement (1890, p. 205).

The Lord's Supper

Superintendents are required to make the necessary arrangements in their Circuit Plans for securing to their Junior Colleagues proper facilities for partaking of the Lord's Supper (1844, vol. x., pp. 91, 92). See p. 51.

Probationers and the Sacraments

See pp. 47-49, 550.

Attendance at Official Meetings

See p. 70.

Grants from Connexional Funds

See p. 154.

Special Grant from Circuit Funds

See p. 154.

Probationers who have been Supplies

See p. 167.

Examination of Preachers on Trial

For General Regulations and Subjects of Examination see *Minutes* for current year.

All Probationers to be Examined

1. Every Probationer, whether appointed to a Circuit or on the List of Reserve, shall be examined in the subjects of his year (1889, p. 190). For Candidates on the List of Reserve see pp. 302, 303.

2. The Conference sees no sufficient reason for the exemption of those Brethren who have formerly been Ministers in other Churches from the usual course of reading and examination prescribed by the Conference for Preachers on Trial, and directs that they be required to observe such Regulations (1877, vol. xx., p. 416).

Preachers put back in their Probation

Any Brethren who may be put back in their probation on disciplinary grounds shall not be expected to pass the Examinations appointed for Probationers for that year to which they may be put back (*Journal*, 1886).

Examination of Preachers on Trial

1. A Connexional Board of Examiners shall be appointed yearly to conduct the Examinations.

2. The Examination shall take place annually near the end of March, or early in April. The date fixed by the Conference for each year shall be kept free from all Circuit engagements for the Probationers.

3. Every Probationer shall upon this day take two

papers of three hours each, in Old and New Testament subjects respectively. The subjects shall normally be in Hebrew and Greek for all Probationers who have passed through the Institution, unless they are exempted from Hebrew on the authority of the College staff.

4. In the Fourth Year every Probationer shall take on the day preceding a paper of two hours on the Works of John Wesley, subjects to be chosen from year to year.

5. The arrangements for the selection of Examiners shall be in the discretion of the General Secretaries. Two Examiners shall be chosen for each subject under section 3 above, who shall jointly set the paper, and jointly report on any Probationer whose marks fall below 35 per cent., as well as in any other case where the General Secretaries specially request it.

6. The marks for all Examinations shall be returned in percentages, and not in grades. The result for each Probationer shall be determined according to his average percentage in the whole Examination. An average of 80 per cent. or over shall entitle to First Class Honours, one of 65 or over to Second Class; while an average of under 35 shall involve failure in the whole Examination.

7. The General Secretaries shall send to all Probationers a special list of more advanced Greek and Hebrew subjects which may be substituted for those published in the *Minutes of Conference*. These subjects shall be chosen generally from those appointed for University Examinations in Divinity, but any Probationer is at liberty to take them. In special cases the Secretaries may accept a subject proposed by the Probationer himself.

8. An Honours List shall be prepared each year, showing the names of Probationers in their several years

who have (a) taken the special subjects and obtained at least a pass mark ; or (b) attained Honours in the ordinary subjects.

9. The September Synod of each District shall appoint a District Secretary, and a centre at which the Examination shall be held under his supervision, care being taken in selecting the centre to reduce as far as possible the travelling expenses involved. When the distances are too great, the Synod shall fix a second centre, under the supervision of an Assistant Secretary.

10. Every Probationer may claim third-class railway fare to and from the place of Examination. These and other expenses of the Examination, with the exception of local expenses, shall be defrayed from the Connexional Fund and the Theological Institution Fund.

11. Probationers who are called out of College into the Home work before Christmas Day in any year shall take the regular April Examination of their year. Those who are removed from College after Christmas shall not take the Probationers' Examination, but shall be examined in subjects fixed by their College staff, and the results shall be reported to the Discipline Committee.

12. Probationers who have not been to the Institution shall be examined according to their attainments at the discretion of the General Secretaries. Those who have not previously studied Greek shall be expected to take a paper in the elements of New Testament Greek grammar, with a few verses of translation. The Secretaries shall have power to exempt from this for sufficient cause, substituting two English Biblical subjects. The marks obtained shall be reported to the Institution Allocation Committee.

13. The General Secretaries shall send to the May

Synod a detailed report of each Probationer's work for the year. This shall show the subjects taken, the marks obtained in each, the average percentage in the whole Examination, and the place in Honours, if any, together with any observations made by the Examiners or by the General Secretaries. The District shall receive these Reports and present them to the Synod, and subsequently transmit to the General Secretaries the Synod's Resolution upon them.

14. The General Secretaries shall prepare a Report to the Conference. This shall contain a brief account of the year's work, with reports on cases of failure and of absence from Examination.

15. Should any Probationer at the time of the Examination be prevented from attending by illness or other imperative cause, he shall immediately inform one of the General Secretaries [named in the *Minutes*], and must satisfy him that attendance at the Examination was absolutely impossible. The consent of the Chairman of the District and of the Superintendent of the Circuit, as well as that of the General Secretaries, is required for every such case of exemption.

16. In addition to the Examination subjects, there shall be fixed year by year English theological works for special study. In the case of Probationers working for other theological examinations, or pursuing special courses of reading, the Secretaries may approve substitutes for these. Upon one of these books, or upon a subject suggested by its reading, an essay shall be written (of about 3,000 words in length), and returned to the Secretaries before the end of February. These essays shall rank equally with the written examination papers, and marks shall be awarded for them to count

towards a place in the Honours list. Each Probationer shall fill in a form describing his method of study of the second prescribed book, which shall be returned to the Secretaries together with the written papers. It shall be open to the Chairman of the District to make inquiry at the Synod with respect to these subjects. Probationers who have not been to the Institution shall write an essay upon a specially chosen book.

17. Should a Probationer be compelled to be absent from the Examination, he shall send to the General Secretaries a detailed statement of the work done in preparation for it. The Secretaries shall report to the Synod their judgement upon these statements, and those described in section 16.

18. A record of the whole of the examination work during probation shall be prepared by the General Secretaries and sent to the Synod, in the case of every Candidate for Ordination, showing the average percentage each year and place, if any, in Honours, together with general comments on the record as a whole. Should this record be deemed by the Secretaries unsatisfactory, they may recommend to the Synod that the Candidate's Ordination should either be deferred or made conditional upon his passing certain examinations before Conference. The number and character of such examinations shall be determined by the Synod upon the Secretaries' recommendation.

19. When part of any Candidate's probation has been spent upon the Foreign Field, the Report to the Synod shall include a Report supplied by the Missionary Secretaries as to his work while abroad.

20. Should any Probationer have been absent from examination more than once during his probation, on

account of health, the General Secretaries shall send to the Designation Committee, after the May Synod, a full Report of the case, with medical statements, and the Designation Committee shall report to the Conference on the question of the Candidate's Ordination (1906, pp. 310, 312-15).

Preachers on Trial Returning from the Mission Field

If a Preacher on Trial enter upon the Home Work after spending part of his probation on the Foreign Field the Missionary Secretaries shall furnish the Chairman of the District to which he is appointed with a Report upon each year of the probation which has been spent abroad. This Report shall be laid by the Chairman before the District Synod in May (1896, pp. 229, 230).

Book Lists

The Examination Committee is instructed to prepare and send to each Probationer, early in October, a list of books specially recommended for the reading of Preachers on Trial, some of which shall have particular reference to the Scriptural Doctrine of the Church. To the Examination centres in April shall be sent a classified form on which the Probationer shall describe his reading, theological and general, for the year. This form is to be sent in to the Chairman of the District at least a week before the meeting of the May Synod. The Conference directs that when the Book Lists of Preachers on Trial are under consideration in the Synods, the Chairman shall note how far their reading has been guided by the recommended list (1815, vol. iv., p. 122 ; 1891, p. 218 ; 1894, p. 200 ; 1896, pp. 209, 210 ; 1906, p. 317). For Recommended List see *Minutes* for current year.

Sermons at District Synods

1. Whenever it shall be found practicable, Preachers on Trial shall preach during the District Synods (1871, vol. xviii., p. 403).

2. Candidates for Ordination shall, at or before the May District Synod, preach before three Ministers of the District, who shall report, in writing, to the Synod (1871, vol. xviii., p. 403).

Examination in Wesley's Works, and Methodist Constitution

1. Before any Preacher, having travelled four years, is recommended by his District Synod for admission into Full Connexion, he shall undergo a careful Oral Examination, by the Chairman of that Synod, respecting his acquaintance with Wesley's *Works* in general, and especially with his *Sermons*, and his *Notes on the New Testament*. This Oral Examination may be omitted when the Report on the Probationer's paper on Wesley's *Works* is satisfactory (1815, vol. iv., p. 122 ; 1896, p. 197 ; 1897, pp. 206, 207). See p. 306.

2. Every such Preacher shall also be examined as to his knowledge of the Constitution of Methodism and the Administration of Circuits ; and as to whether, after four years' experience of its working, he still approves of our Discipline (1897, p. 207).

3. Those Preachers on Trial who do not already possess Wesley's *Works* are required to procure them, during the period of their Probation, and shall be allowed to pay for them to our Book Steward by such instalments as may best suit their convenience (1815, vol. iv., pp. 122, 123).

Oversight of Probationers

1. The Conference resolves that a Committee be appointed to undertake the oversight of Preachers on Trial during the whole course of their probation. The final Report of the Local Discipline Committee on each Student leaving College shall be furnished to this Committee.

2. The District Synod shall be required to declare their judgement year by year as to the general fitness for our work in all its details of the Preachers on Trial resident in the several Districts. This judgement shall be furnished to the Committee for the oversight of Preachers on Trial.

3. Before a Probationer is recommended to be received into Full Connexion the several Reports of his case from his acceptance as a Candidate, or a summary of them, shall be presented to the Synod together with the judgement upon them of the Committee for the oversight of Preachers on Trial. The Committee shall have power to recommend to the Synod, either that a Probationer's reception into Full Connexion be deferred, or made conditional upon his satisfying further tests (1909, p. 358).

Special Reports upon Probationers

The Designation Committee is directed to inquire into and report upon all cases in which the Conference has determined that Special Reports upon Probationers shall be presented to the ensuing Conference (1891, p. 232). See p. 645.

No Right to Vote

Neither in District Synods, nor at the Conference, have Preachers on Trial a right to vote. The election

of a Representative [to the Stationing Committee] is not an exception (1840, vol. ix., p. 105). For *Probationers in Foreign Synods* see p. 418.

Attending Conference

1. The Preachers on Trial shall not attend the Conference unless sent for, or unless stationed within such a distance of the place where it is held as will admit of supplying their appointments on the Lord's Day (1809, vol. iii., p. 90).

2. All the Preachers who are recommended by their respective District Synods to be admitted into Full Connexion shall be required to attend the Conference of that year, to undergo the usual Examinations, and, if approved, to be publicly set apart, without delay, to the Christian Ministry (1821, vol. v., p. 251).

3. Candidates for Ordination shall not be allowed to divide the time with other Brethren (*Journal*, 1867).

Experience of Circuit Work

Where practicable, all Preachers shall have had experience of Circuit Work before being received into Full Connexion with the Conference. The Conference recognizes that there are special cases in which exception must be made (1889, p. 204).

Examination of Candidates for Ordination at the Conference

1. Arrangements shall be made for conducting the Examination, in the Conference, of Candidates for Ordination at a time when the President of the Conference can attend, and when a large proportion of the Conference, including its official members, may be expected to be present.

2. An explicit declaration of his belief in the Doctrines of Methodism shall be required of each Candidate (1883, pp. 181, 182 ; 1896, p. 197).

Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly

1. Probationers for the Welsh Ministry, at the end of their fourth year, shall undergo their Public Examination at the Assembly, be ordained in their native land, and receive a Charge in their native tongue.

N.B.—This would not interfere with their subsequent appearance before the Conference, where alone they could be received into Full Connexion (1898, p. 493).

2. The Conference declares, by way of interpreting the functions of the Welsh Assembly, that it has power to arrest the ordination of any Candidate for Ordination in the Welsh Districts, but not to proceed to ordination in cases where the Welsh Synods decline to recommend (1909, p. 360).

Ordination by Imposition of Hands

1. The Conference, after mature deliberation, resolves that the Preachers who are this year to be publicly admitted into Full Connexion shall be ordained by imposition of hands ; that this shall be our standing Rule and usage in future years ; and that any Rule of a contrary nature, which may be in existence, shall be, and is hereby, rescinded (1836, vol. viii., p. 85). See p. 647.

2. The persons by whom the Conference shall confer Ordination to our Ministry, by imposition of hands, shall be the President, Ex-President, and Secretary of the Conference for the time being, with two of the Senior Preachers, to be nominated by the President (1841, vol. ix., p. 250).

Marriage of Ministers

1. When any Preacher has married in the course of the year, let the ensuing District Synod carefully inquire whether he have complied with the Apostolical injunction, binding on all Christians, but more especially on all Christian Ministers, to marry only in the Lord ; and if there be reason to believe the contrary, let the Chairman report the same to the Conference (1806, vol. ii., p. 349).

2. It is the solemn judgement of the Conference that it is very highly inexpedient and dangerous for a Methodist Preacher to marry a person who, though truly pious, does not give at least that degree of public proof of cordial agreement with us, in Doctrine and Discipline, which is implied in being a Member of our Society. The only exception to this Rule must be found in some very extraordinary cases, where the inclination to unite with us in Christian communion may have been controlled by the want of opportunity, or other unavoidable circumstances. Where this cannot be pleaded, the Conference deems the marriage of a Preacher with a female not belonging to our Society to be an instance of culpable imprudence, perilous to the comfort and usefulness of the Preacher himself, and likely, if not discountenanced, to be greatly injurious to the spiritual interests of our people.

3. We require the Chairmen of our Districts to examine, in the case of every Preacher who has married during the year, whether the fourth of the *Rules of a Helper* has been obeyed, which says, ' Take no step towards marriage without first consulting with your brethren ' ; and to report to the Conference any case in which that important direction shall appear to have been violated. This Rule shall be considered as requir-

ing, in particular, consultation with the Superintendent ; not excluding, however, the other Ministerial Colleagues of the party concerned (1824, vol. v., pp. 519, 520).

4. *Q.* What is the opinion of the Conference concerning the marriage of daughters without the consent of parents ? *A.* We agree to confirm and republish the Minute formerly printed on this subject by Mr. Wesley ; and resolve that if any Preacher violate this Rule in future he shall, on proof of such violation, be excluded from the Connexion.

The Minute referred to is as follows :

Q. Ought any woman to marry without the consent of her parents ? *A.* In general she ought not. Yet there may be an exception. For if (1) a woman be under the necessity of marrying ; if (2) her parents absolutely refuse to let her marry any Christian ; then she may, nay, ought to marry without their consent. Yet, even then, a Methodist Preacher ought not to marry her (1809, vol. iii., p. 91).

Privileges of Ministers in Full Connexion

The privileges of Wesleyan Methodist Ministers, who have been admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference, after having served the Connexion during four years of Probation, are recited as follows :

1. *The Home Mission Fund.*—They are entitled to appointment to a House, or such an Allowance from the Home Mission Fund in lieu thereof as may, from time to time, be determined by Resolution of the Conference.

N.B.—The Allowance is never made to unmarried Ordained Ministers. It is only made to married Ordained Ministers who received an appointment before Christmas in the first year of their Probation. See p. 300.

2. *The Children's Fund*.—They are entitled to such Allowances from the Children's Fund for the Maintenance and Education of each Child, as may, from time to time, be determined by Resolution of the Conference.

3. *The Auxiliary Fund*.—Each Supernumerary Minister, and each Widow of a Minister, is entitled to such an Annuity as may, from time to time, be determined by Resolution of the Conference (1889, pp. 413, 414).

N.B.—The payments made by the Children's and Auxiliary Funds are, at present, as follows, viz. :—

1. *Children's Fund*—(1) Maintenance Section.—Six guineas a year for each Child up to nineteen years of age, if still dependent on the parents. See p. 148.

(2) Education Section.—Twelve pounds a year for each Child of educational age (who is not sent to one of the Connexional Schools) for six years, ranging from ten to sixteen years¹; or for a boy, residence at the School for six years; and for a girl, residence at the School for four years, together with two years' payment.

See *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 17–22. See also *Married Candidates*, pp. 268–70.

2. *Auxiliary Fund*.—The scale of Allowance for the year 1914–15 was, for Supernumeraries, £1 for each year of active service, with a bonus of £18; for Widows, ten shillings for each year of the husband's service, with the same bonus (1914, p. 45).

Ministers received into Full Connexion from other Churches

All applications for admission to our work by Ministers of other Conferences and Churches shall be con-

¹ Claim may begin at nine years of age.

sidered and reported upon by the Committee appointed for the purpose by the Conference (*Journal*, 1894).

See p. 639.

III. CIRCUIT MINISTERS

The Pastoral Office

The Conference regards itself as being bound, by the principles set forth in the New Testament, and by the sacred trust transmitted to it by Mr. Wesley and his co-adjutors, to maintain the Pastoral Office in unimpaired integrity; and, consequently, bound to uphold the Spiritual Authority which is appropriate to that Office, and necessary to the execution of the duties which Christ has made imperative on all those who sustain it (1850, vol. xi., p. 468; 1851, vol. xi., p. 678). See pp. 295-97.

The Connexional Principle

The Conference solemnly resolves to stand by the Connexional Principle, adopted by Mr. Wesley, and hitherto maintained by his successors, as being that in which—next to the blessing and grace of the Holy Spirit—the great strength of Wesleyan Methodism lies, for the conservation of its internal purity and order, and for the accomplishment of the great spiritual objects for which the Providence of God first brought it into existence, and has hitherto sustained it (1850, vol. xi., pp. 468, 469; 1851, vol. xi., p. 678). See pp. 181, 182, 298.

Appointment of Ministers

At the head of the Stations in each year the following N.B. is printed:

1. Each of the places mentioned in these Stations, and numbered consecutively . . . is the head of the Circuit ; and the Minister first named is the Superintendent. In the event of his death, resignation, or incapacity, the Minister next named, provided such Minister be in Full Connexion with the Conference, and in full work, is the Superintendent. In case there is no Minister in Full Connexion with the Conference, and in full work, appointed to or remaining in the Circuit, the Chairman of the District is the Superintendent.

2. The Superintendent and other Minister or Ministers who are or shall be stationed in or appointed to the several Circuits undermentioned is and are appointed by the Conference to preach and to perform all acts of religious worship and Methodist discipline in each and every one of the Wesleyan Methodist Chapels already erected, or to be erected, in each Circuit respectively, within the space of twelve calendar months, at such time or times, and in such manner, as to him or them shall seem proper ; subject, nevertheless, to the Superintendent Minister, and to the existing Laws and Regulations of the Conference.

Superintendents

The Superintendent is that Preacher in each Circuit who is appointed, from time to time, to take charge of the Societies and the other Preachers therein (1749, vol. i., p. 44).

Desirable that Superintendents should be Ministers in Full Connexion

1. In the opinion of the Conference it is most desirable that only such Ministers as are in Full Connexion should be appointed to the office of Superintendent (1886, p. 204).

2. Where needed, the Conference shall make provision for exceptional cases by directing that the Minister appointed shall act under the direction of the Chairman of the District (1909, p. 361).

Senior Ministers and Superintendency

Any Senior Minister in health and vigour, who wishes to be relieved of the cares of the Superintendency, and is willing to take the second or third position in a Circuit, with the conditions of that position, may be so appointed (1891, p. 229).

Superintendents and Chairmen of Districts

See pp. 134, 135.

Relation to Colleagues

1. It is the business of a Superintendent to see that the other Preachers in his Circuit behave well, and want nothing (1749, vol. i., p. 44 ; see also vol. i., pp. 678, 679).

2. Q.—What is the particular business of those Preachers who do not act as Superintendents ? A.—To feed the flock by constantly preaching ; . . . to meet the Society ; . . . to meet the Leaders ; . . . and to do any other part of the work which the Superintendent may desire them to do (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 682).

3. Act in all things, not according to your own will, but as a Son in the Gospel, and in union with your Brethren. See *Rules of a Helper*, pp. 365, 366.

N.B.—When a Minister is ordained, the following question is asked and answered : Q.—Will you reverently obey the Ministers unto whom may be committed

the charge and government over you ; following with a glad mind and will their godly admonitions, and submitting yourself to their godly judgements ? *A.*—I will do so, the Lord being my Helper (*Book of Public Prayers and Services*, p. 276).

The Twelve Rules of a Helper

See pp. 365, 366.

Union among Preachers

1. *Q.*—What can be done in order to a closer union of our Preachers with each other ? *A.*—Let them be deeply convinced of the absolute necessity of it. Let them pray for a desire of union. Let them speak freely and lovingly to each other. When they meet, let them never part without prayer. Let them beware how they despise each other's gifts. Let them never speak slightly of each other in any kind. Let them defend each other's characters in everything as far as they can with a good conscience. And let them labour in honour to prefer the other before himself (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 682).

2. No Helper [Colleague] shall countenance or encourage any person who opposes the Superintendent in the proper discharge of his official duties according to our Rules (1806, vol. ii., p. 348).

3. No person among us shall call another heretic, bigot, or by any other disrespectful name, on any account, for a difference in sentiment (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 696).

Weekly Meetings of Ministers

Ministers who labour together in the same Circuit shall meet together once a week, or as often as it is

practicable, in order to converse freely with each other respecting the affairs of their Circuits (1806, vol. ii., p. 348).

N.B.—Army and Navy Ministers shall attend the Weekly Meeting of the Ministers of the Circuit in which they may reside (1870, vol. xviii., p. 152). See p. 136.

Monthly Meetings of Ministers in Large Towns

The Preachers of different Circuits—when resident in the same Town—shall meet at least once in every month for the purposes of mutual conference and prayer, in order to promote brotherly love, and to afford frequent and regular opportunities for friendly consultation on subjects of common concern in their respective Circuits (1827, vol. vi., p. 281). See p. 165.

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING SUPERINTENDENTS ESPECIALLY

Appointment of Superintendents

See pp. 132, 133.

Admission of Members

See pp. 22-26.

Trial and Exclusion of Members

See pp. 33-41.

Expulsion of Members

1. No sentence of expulsion shall hereafter be pronounced by any Superintendent in the same Meeting at which the trial shall have taken place. To afford time for full inquiry into the past character of the party, and other circumstances, and for calm and careful delibera-

tion, the sentence shall be deferred for at least one week after the trial; unless the Superintendent be fully satisfied at once that the case is one in which some of the milder forms of discipline should alone be adopted, and that expulsion is not at all to be contemplated.

2. In difficult or doubtful cases, the Superintendent is further directed not to proceed to the actual sentence of expulsion without privately asking information from such individual Leaders, or other judicious and experienced Members of the Society, as are most likely to put him into full possession of all the circumstances necessary to his forming, with due discretion and caution, his own final judgement on the subject.

3. Every case of proposed expulsion shall be brought by the Superintendent before the Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of the Circuit, in order that he may have the advantage of hearing the opinions and advices of his Colleagues and co-Pastors, before he shall finally decide on the course he ought to adopt.

4. When the Superintendent has not a Colleague, and cannot therefore consult a Weekly Meeting of the Preachers of the Circuit, he shall, in every case of the proposed expulsion of a Member of Society, take counsel with the Chairman of the District.

5. In all cases of dissatisfaction with the sentence of expulsion, pronounced by a Superintendent, the aggrieved person shall have the right of appeal to the Annual Synod of the Preachers of his District, and even, if still dissatisfied, to the Conference, which will hear him by a Committee, or by a Special Deputation, and endeavour to decide according to truth, and to the requirements of Holy Scripture, and of our Discipline.

6. But as it is readily admitted that the appeal to

the full District Synod, or to the Conference, may possibly be found, practically, too inconvenient to admit of a sufficiently prompt and easy application, except in cases of extraordinary interest and importance, the Conference agrees and resolves: That the principle of the Rule of 1793 (see *Minutes*, vol. i., pp. 289, 290) respecting the appointment of Minor District Synods in the case of Preachers, shall be extended also to the case of all excluded Members who choose to avail themselves of its provisions. An excluded person shall, therefore, have the right of selecting any two Preachers of the District to which his Circuit belongs, the Superintendent shall select two other such Preachers, and the Chairman of the District shall also select two other such Preachers, and these six, with the Chairman of the District (or if it happens that the Chairman is himself the Superintendent whose act is impugned, then some other Preacher to be chosen by the six other Members as their Chairman *pro tempore*), shall meet in some convenient place, and shall have the power of modifying, reversing, or confirming the sentence against which such appeal shall be made. Their decision shall in such case be binding on all parties, unless subsequently altered, on further appeal, by the full District Synod, or by the Conference. See pp. 457, 630.

N.B.—In the case of the trial of an Appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent of a Circuit, the two members of the Minor District Synod added by the legislation of 1894, that is the two members who in ordinary cases are selected by the Chairman, shall be nominated by the President of the Conference. See 1897, p. 241.

7. A Superintendent, complaining of any Leaders' Meeting for refusing to act its constitutional part, or for acting it factiously or in contradiction to law and evidence, in the trial of an accused Member, shall have the same right of prompt appeal to the revision of a Minor District Synod, as has been granted to an excluded Member in the other case supposed.

8. In almost every case, it is presumed that this Minor District Synod will be sufficient to accomplish the purposes of general peace and purity, and at least 'settle everything till the Conference.' But if not, there is still in reserve, where it may be found absolutely necessary, the power of calling a Special District Synod, consisting of the whole number of the Christian Pastors of that District, who shall be in Full Connexion with the Conference, according to our existing Rules respecting District Synods; whose powers, either in the cases here particularly intended, or in any other cases, nothing contained in this document [*Special Address to the Wesleyan Methodist Societies*, 1835,] shall be construed to weaken or abridge (1835, vol. vii., pp. 581-3; 1894, p. 217; 1897, p. 241; 1898, pp. 253, 254). For *Special District Synod* see pp. 516-18.

The Law of God the Primary Standard of Judgement

The Law of God contained in the Holy Scriptures furnishes, in the trial of Members, that primary standard of judgement by which the innocence or culpability of any particular facts adduced in evidence is ever to be determined. . . . Any conduct in a man professing godliness which can be shown to be decidedly condemned by the precepts and principles of the New Testament is surely sufficient to justify, if persisted in, the

application of a suitable ecclesiastical censure, or other penalty, to such an individual, even although it may not have been previously found necessary to make a distinct and specific Rule of our own Society on that exact mode and form of delinquency. The New Testament Law of Purity, in reference both to the Pastors and Members of the Christian Church, and with respect both to Doctrine and Practice ; its often-repeated Law of Peace and Godly Quietness, and its Laws of Courtesy, Brotherly Kindness, and Mutual Charity, as well as its direction, that 'all things' should 'be done decently and in order,' and its requirement of reasonable submission, on the part of Church Members, to the Scriptural 'rule' of those who are 'over them in the Lord': these are standing enactments of the Gospel, binding on all Christian Communities, and therefore binding on the Methodist Societies, without exception. Any obstinate violation of them must be suitably visited, when proved ; or else the authority of Jesus Christ Himself, as the Lord and Master of our department of His spiritual House, will be criminally set at nought ; and He will have just cause to say to the Ministers and Pastors of our Community, as He did to one of old time : 'I have somewhat against thee' (1835, vol. vii., pp. 583, 584).

See *Rules of the Society*, p. 11.

Agitators

Any person who, instead of peaceably retiring from our Connexion if he decidedly disapprove of our system either of Doctrine or Discipline and cannot conscientiously even acquiesce in them, endeavours to retain and to employ his position among us for the purposes of opposition and strife,—or who continues, after due ad-

monition, to be a member of any confederacy formed for the object of systematic agitation,—is guilty of a flagrant transgression of that morality of the New Testament the observance of which was a principal condition of his admission into our Society, and must be considered to have justly forfeited his claim to the privileges of our religious fellowship. In applying to particular cases this righteous general Rule, the Conference exhorts all the Superintendents to exercise, in connexion with a holy firmness, the moderation and mercy of the Gospel ; bearing long, and dealing tenderly, though faithfully, with the weak, the ill-informed, and the misled : while they do not shrink from the effectual execution of necessary Christian Discipline on those who by overt acts of hostility and disturbance identify themselves as the leaders, or open partisans, of disaffection and faction. The sound and satisfied majority of our Societies . . . have a just claim on us for protection in the quiet enjoyment of their religious privileges ; a claim . . . which it is our bounden duty to meet with a discreet but decisive enforcement of our Discipline on those whom milder methods shall fail to reclaim from their course of disturbance and mischief (1835, vol. vii., pp. 585, 586 ; 1850, vol. xi., pp. 472, 473 ; 1851, vol. xi., pp. 678, 679). See pp. 38, 39.

The Circuit Plan

See pp. 84, 85.

Superintendent's Power to Appoint to Chapels

And upon further trust, from time to time, and at all times after the erection thereof, to permit and suffer the said Chapel or Place of Religious Worship with the

appurtenances, to be used, occupied and enjoyed, as and for a Place of Religious Worship, by a congregation of Protestants, of the said People called Methodists, in the Connexion established by the said late John Wesley as aforesaid, and for public and other Meetings and Services, held according to the General Rules and Usage of the said People called Methodists ; and do and shall, from time to time and at all times hereafter, permit and suffer such person and persons as are hereinafter mentioned or designated, and such person and persons only, to preach, and expound God's Holy Word, and to perform the usual acts of Religious Worship therein ; that is to say, such person and persons, as shall be from time to time approved, and for that purpose duly appointed, by the said Conference of the said People called Methodists, from time to time held under the orders and regulations of the said in part recited Deed Poll ; and also such other person and persons as shall be thereunto from time to time duly permitted or appointed (according to the General Rules and Usage of the said People called Methodists), by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or Place of Religious Worship shall, for the time being, be situated ; and also such other person and persons, as shall be thereunto from time to time duly appointed, by any authority lawfully constituted by the said Conference, or under or by virtue of these presents, to fill up any vacancy or vacancies, at any time occasioned by the death, removal, or suspension, of a Preacher or Preachers, in or during any interval between the sittings of the said Conference ; but only until the then next Conference, and in no case any other person or persons whomsoever (*The Chapel Model Deed*). See pp. 710, 711.

General Rules and Usage

See p. 723.

Proviso respecting Doctrines

Provided always that no person or persons whomsoever, shall, at any time hereafter, be permitted to preach or expound God's Holy Word, or to perform any of the usual acts of Religious Worship, upon the said piece of ground and hereditaments, nor in the said Chapel or Place of Religious Worship and premises, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, nor in or upon the appurtenances thereto belonging, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, who shall maintain, promulgate, or teach, any Doctrine or Practice, contrary to what is contained in certain Notes on the New Testament, commonly reputed to be the Notes of the said John Wesley, and in the First Four volumes of Sermons, commonly reputed to be written and published by him (*The Chapel Model Deed*). See p. 713.

The First Four Volumes of Sermons

The phrase in the Model Deed applies to the first four volumes of Wesley's *Sermons*, published in eight volumes in 1787-8; and the total number of sermons is forty-four (1914, p. 373). See pp. 91, 736-47.

The Lord's Supper

The Conference is impressed with the advisability of arranging for the more frequent administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on week-days in those places where it is difficult to arrange for its administration on Sundays. The Conference directs Superin-

tendents of Circuits to pay special attention to this important matter (1896, p. 230). See pp. 49-51.

Probationers and the Lord's Supper

See pp. 51, 304.

Quarterly Return of Members

The Superintendents are directed to return, in their Quarterly Schedules, the precise number, without any abridgement or deduction, of those to whom, after due and sufficient probation, they or their Colleagues have actually given Tickets in their respective Circuits (1831, vol. vii., p. 67).

The Conference directs that, where practicable, the numbers of each Society be read in the Leaders' Meeting immediately before each Quarter Day (1893, p. 228).

Annual Return of Members

The number of Members in the Society, and of persons admitted on Trial, as taken at the March Quarterly Visitation in each year, and reported at the District Synods, shall be the number returned on the Minutes of the following Conference (1831, vol. vii., p. 67).

Book Accounts

Every Superintendent shall be required not only finally to settle his Book Account for the preceding year at each Conference, but regularly to remit the money in his hands . . . to the Book Steward at Christmas, at Lady Day, and at Midsummer Day, and as much oftener as possible. The Book Committee are directed to use such means as they may find expedient for the full and impartial execution of this Rule (1821, vol. v., p. 248; 1894, p. 213).

Collections and Subscriptions for Connexional Funds

See *Minutes of the Conference* for current year.

The Superintendents of Circuits are peremptorily required to supply their respective Chairmen with their Collections and Accounts on or before the first day of the meeting of every Conference. . . . And the Chairmen are required to report without fail to the Conference every Superintendent who shall have neglected this part of his official duty (1827, vol. vi., p. 283).

Registration of Baptisms

See p. 48.

Registration of Marriages

See pp. 368, 369.

THE SUPERINTENDENT'S KALENDAR

N.B.—1. Superintendents should consult the whole of this *Summary* in order to become acquainted with the duties of their office. See *Index*.

2. In constructing this Kalendar, which is suggestive and not exhaustive, an average Circuit, in respect of number of places, has been kept in view.

January

Covenant Service. See p. 53.

Society and Poor Stewards to be appointed at the Leaders' Meetings. See p. 64.

Representatives of the Leaders' Meeting on the Local Sunday School Council to be elected. See pp. 44, 222.

Annual Society Meeting to be held and Representatives of the Society to be chosen as members of the Leaders' Meeting. See pp. 43, 44.

Also Representatives to be chosen as members of the Local Sunday School Council (1911, p. 511). See p. 222.

Where the old Regulations are still in force, the Annual Meeting of Sunday School Committee and Subscribers, or of Teachers' Meeting where no Committee is appointed, to be held (1911, p. 512). See p. 200.

Sunday School Representative, or Representatives, to Quarterly Meeting to be chosen at the Annual Meeting of the Local Sunday School Council. See p. 216, 217.

Arrangements to be made for auditing Chapel Treasurers' accounts, and for holding Trustees' Annual Meetings. See pp. 119, 186, 187; also *The Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 720, 721.

Forms for collecting Chapel Statistics to be given to the Circuit Chapel Secretary, and to be sent by him to the Treasurers of the several Trusts.

Subscriptions for Theological Institution Fund to be collected, and the amount remitted as directed in the *Minutes*. See 1914, p. 454.

N.B.—As each Connexional Fund has its own Banking Account, it is very desirable that separate cheques should be forwarded when payments are made to the several Funds.

Remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made, through the Circuit and District Treasurers, to the Home and Foreign Missionary Treasurers in London. See 1914, p. 454.

Foreign Missionary Accounts to be closed not later than January 24. See p. 187.

Public Collections for the London Mission and Extension Fund (Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund), to be made, on the last Sunday in the month, in all the Chapels in each Circuit in London.

N.B.—For Home Missionary Anniversaries see pp. 337, 341.

Book Order to be sent not later than the 17th of the month ; and so on during the year, with the exception of July.

The Chapel Committee usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month. All communications intended for the Committee must reach the Secretary not later than the Saturday preceding the day of the usual monthly meeting. See 1914, pp. 24, 25. Loan instalments must be sent to the General Secretary of the Chapel Committee at the stipulated times.

February

Begin Visitation of Classes, due notice to be given to the Leaders. See pp. 31, 32.

Annual Trustees' Meetings to be held.

Forms for collecting Statistics of Day and Sunday Schools, Temperance Societies, Bands of Hope, Wesley Guilds to be given to the respective Secretaries. See pp. 178–80.

Foreign Mission Accounts to be audited during the first week, and from the Accounts so audited the usual Schedule to be prepared and immediately forwarded to the District Treasurer. The Accounts must be passed by the Local or Circuit Missionary Committee, and be duly signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit. See pp. 181, 187, 188.

Public Collections to be made, and Private Subscriptions solicited for the General Chapel Fund ; and the amount remitted as directed in the *Minutes*.

N.B.—The Financial Year of the General Chapel Fund closes on May 31, and not June 30 as heretofore.

March

Not later than March 1, each Superintendent must send to the Secretary named in the *Minutes* a particular account of all claims for Educational Allowances in his Circuit ; specifying distinctly the names of the Children for whose education the claims are made, together with the date, year, and place of their birth, and the exact number of years during which the Allowance has been received. Any claims delayed beyond the date of the May Synods are delayed at the risk of the Parents. A Schedule is provided by the Officers of the Children's Fund. No claim must be entered on the Schedule for Children at the Connexional Schools (1914, p. 21).

Conclude Visitation of Classes.

The Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 87-95.

The Circuit Plan to be made. See pp. 84, 85.

On the first Saturday in the month, the Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge is held. See 1914, p. 449.

The Probationers' Examination takes place annually near the end of March, or early in April. The Conference has directed that the date fixed for each year shall be kept free from all Circuit engagements for the Probationers. See 1914, p. 338.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For special Business see pp. 166-181.

Names and addresses of Representatives to District Synods to be sent to the Chairman and Financial Secretary of the District. See p. 173.

Names and addresses of Candidates for the Ministry, if any, to be sent to the Chairman and Financial Secretary of the District.

N.B.—No Candidate shall be nominated until he has been heard by the Superintendent and his Colleagues. See p. 169.

Annual Schedules relating to Class Leaders and Local Preachers to be signed by the Superintendent and forwarded to the Financial Secretary of District.

United Trustees' Meeting to be held on the date fixed at the December Quarterly Meeting. See p. 187.

N.B.—This is an aggregate Meeting of the Trustees of the Trust Properties in the Circuit. It is not a meeting for the transaction of the business of any individual Trust, but recommendations touching Insurance, etc., may be made to the Trustees of the several Trusts.

Public Collections to be made for Education Fund.

Public Collections to be made and Private Subscriptions solicited for the Connexional Fund not later than the month of March, and the amount to be remitted as directed in the *Minutes*.

The amount of the Public Collections made in the London Chapels for the London Mission and Extension Fund, together with the Collections at Public Meetings and other Contributions, to be remitted, as directed in the *Minutes*, not later than the end of March.

It is desirable that the amount of the Circuit Assessment for the General Assessment for the Children's Fund, etc., should be paid, as directed in the *Minutes*, in quarterly instalments in September, December, March, and June.

Remittance to Book Steward. See p. 330.

April

Prepare for the District Synod.

Fill up and send the *President's Circular* to the

Financial Secretary of the District as soon as possible after the March Quarterly Meeting, and not later than April 4 (*Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 12).

Send to the Financial Secretary of the District the Statements of Home Mission Fund and Connexional Fund.

Send to the respective District Secretaries, the Chapel, Sunday and Day School, Wesley Guild, Temperance, and the Army and Navy Schedules. See pp. 178-180.

N.B.—To enable the Financial Secretary of the District to prepare a printed *Agenda* for the use of the Synod, it is of great assistance to him if Superintendents will send their Schedules at the earliest date possible.

The President's Circular should not be delayed to complete the list of Collections, as these are now to be sent on a separate slip. The items in the Circular are of such importance that, when they are filled in, the document should be sent at once to the Financial Secretary.

Send the list of Collections to the Financial Secretary of the District by April 10.

The preliminary Examination of Candidates for the Ministry is held on the date fixed by the Conference and published in the *Minutes*. See pp. 262-64.

N.B.—Superintendents of Circuits are instructed by the Conference to impress upon Candidates for the Ministry the importance of a thorough knowledge of the English Bible. See p. 263.

Where the Foreign Missionary Anniversary is held in the Autumn, the Sunday Collections for the Home Mission Fund should be made in the Spring.

A Public Home Missionary Meeting to be held in

every Chapel and Preaching-place in each Circuit (1900, p. 270).

N.B.—The time of making Home Mission Collections and of holding Home Missionary Meetings varies in different Circuits. As the Returns for the Synod have to be sent to the Financial Secretary not later than April 10, an early date for holding the Home Missionary Anniversary is advisable. It must also be remembered that the Home Missionary Deputations appointed by the Conference visit the Districts from January to March. See *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 13.

Quarterly Remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made.

Private Subscriptions for Education Fund to be solicited, and the amount of Collections and Subscriptions to be remitted as directed in the *Minutes*, 1914, p. 455.

May

Visitation of the Classes. See pp. 31, 32.

District Synod. See pp. 441-97.

Public Collections for the Foreign Missionary Society shall be made on the Lord's Day at the time of holding the Missionary Meeting ; except in London, where the Collections shall be made in May.

Private Subscriptions for the Missionary Society shall be solicited and received weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually, as is most convenient to the Subscribers. The amount shall be remitted through the District Treasurer, to the General Treasurers in London. Annual Subscriptions are due May 1.

Private Subscriptions for the Auxiliary Fund to be

solicited; the Superintendents to remit the amount without delay, as directed in the *Minutes*.

June

Conclude Visitation of Classes.

Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 87-95.

Circuit Plan to be made. See pp. 84, 85.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For special Business see pp. 181-84.

Quarterly instalment of Circuit Assessment for the General Assessment for the Children's Fund, etc., to be paid as directed in the *Minutes*.

Remittance to Book Steward. See p. 330.

July

Remit Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings as directed in the *Minutes*. See p. 183.

N.B.—As Memorials from Circuits are now printed in the Conference Agenda, the Convener of the Memorials' Committee is assisted in his work if Memorials are forwarded to him immediately after the June Quarterly Meeting.

Fill up and return Financial Secretary's Schedule for the Conference.

Special Examination Committee for Candidates for the Ministry meets at Richmond and Didsbury. See pp. 272-9.

Conference.

Book Accounts must be closed at or before the Conference. See p. 330.

Quarterly remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made.

Public Collections for the Auxiliary Fund to be made, the amount to be remitted as directed in the *Minutes*.

August

Visitation of the Classes. See pp. 31, 32.

Superintendents should see that the regulation concerning the sanitary condition of Ministers' Houses is carried out at every change of Ministers, and should remind Circuit Stewards that a certificate must be forwarded to the Chairman of the District before August 21.

If leaving the Circuit, the Circuit Book should be entered up for the next Superintendent. See p. 31.

September

Send to the Financial Secretary of the District the number of the Ministers' Children in the Circuit for whom Allowances for Maintenance will be claimed in the ensuing Connexional year.

Financial District Synod. See pp. 497-514.

N.B.—The Representative of the Synod to the Stationing Committee is chosen by the Financial District Synod. It is necessary that he should have the information concerning proposed appointments of Ministers and changes in Circuits at the ensuing Conference as early as possible. See pp. 513, 543, 544.

Conclude Visitation of Classes.

At the Weekly Ministers' Meeting the Abbreviated Form of *The Liverpool Minutes* of 1820, and also the *Twelve Rules of a Helper*, to be read. See pp. 357-66.

The Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 87-95.

The Circuit Plan to be made. See pp. 84, 85.

Furnish every Steward, Local Preacher, and Leader with a copy of the Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Societies. See p. 63.

Appoint Special Society Meetings for the purpose of having the Pastoral Address read. See p. 42.

If the Foreign Missionary Meetings are held in the Autumn, arrangements to be made.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For special Business see pp. 185, 186.

Annual Meeting of Class Leaders to be held in the Circuit, the date to be fixed by the September, or, where desirable, by the June Quarterly Meeting. The Quarterly Meeting appoints a Circuit Secretary (1909, p. 93). See pp. 80-82.

Quarterly instalment of Circuit Assessment for the General Assessment for Children's Fund, &c., to be paid as directed in the *Minutes*.

Not later than the end of September send to the Secretary of the Temperance Committee of the Conference the name of the Circuit Temperance Secretary. See pp. 185, 186.

Superintendents of Circuits in which County or Borough Prisons are situate must send each year, in September, to the Ministerial Secretary of the Army and Navy Board, the name and address of a Minister in the Circuit for recognition by the Governor of such jail as authorized to visit any Wesleyan prisoners (1903, p. 362).

The Kingswood School Year begins in September. See p. 488.

October

Third Sunday to be observed as day of Special Prayer for Sunday Schools and Young People. See p. 206.

October 15, latest date for sending name and age of applicants for admission to Trinity Hall School. See p. 490.

On the last Saturday in the month, the Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge is held. See 1914, p. 449.

Public Collections for the Home Mission Fund to be made in October, except where the Foreign Missionary Anniversary is held in the Autumn, in which case the Sunday Collections for this Fund should be made in the Spring. See p. 337.

Quarterly remittances from Juvenile Missionary Associations to be made.

November

Visitation of Classes. See pp. 31, 32.

Public Collections to be made, and Private Subscriptions solicited for the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children, and the whole amount remitted as directed in the *Minutes*.

On the second Sunday in the month special reference to be made in Chapels and Sunday Schools to the extent and results of Intemperance and to the many advantages and blessings of Total Abstinence. The Conference has recommended that the annual reaffirmation of their pledge by the members of the League of Abstainers should ordinarily be associated with the observance of Temperance Sunday (1914, p. 72). See p. 243.

Examination in November for candidates for admission into Trinity Hall School. See p. 491.

December

Conclude Visitation of the Classes.

The Local Preachers' Meeting to be held. See pp. 87-95.

The Circuit Plan to be made. See pp. 84, 85.

The Circuit Quarterly Meeting to be held. For special Business see pp. 186-89.

Names and addresses of Circuit Stewards appointed at the Quarterly Meeting to be sent to the Chairman and Financial Secretary of the District. See p. 173.

Quarterly instalment of Circuit Assessment for the General Assessment for Children's Fund, etc., to be paid as directed in the *Minutes*.

Private Subscriptions for the Home Mission Fund to be solicited, and the amount of Collections and Subscriptions remitted as directed in the *Minutes*.

Public Collections for the Theological Institution Fund to be made, and the amount remitted as directed in the *Minutes*.

N.B.—The District Treasurers for the Auxiliary Fund close their account with the Circuit Treasurers and the General Treasurers not later than December 31.

Remittance to Book Steward. See p. 330.

Watch Night Services to be held.

**RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING MINISTERS
GENERALLY****Discipline**

In addition to the zealous and faithful preaching of the Gospel in all our congregations, and wherever we can obtain access for that purpose, we earnestly exhort our Preachers firmly, vigilantly, and affectionately to enforce,

in all our Societies, every part of our Discipline (1825, vol. vi., p. 65).

Public Worship

See *Appointment of Preachers*, section 2, p. 133.

1. It is hereby declared that the times and manner of the various Services and Ordinances of Religious Worship, to be observed and performed in the said Chapel or Place of Religious Worship, shall be regulated according to the General Rules and Usage of the said People called Methodists; and that the officiating Preacher for the time being, whether appointed by the said Conference, or permitted or appointed by the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being, or otherwise permitted or appointed as in these presents is mentioned, shall have the direction and conducting of the same Worship, in conformity, nevertheless, to the said General Rules and Usage of the said People called Methodists (*The Chapel Model Deed*). See p. 711.

2. Let no Preacher suffer anything to be done in the Chapel where he officiates but what is according to the established Usages of Methodism; knowing that he is accountable to God for whatever he does, or permits to be done, during the time he is in possession of the pulpit.

Let no Preacher, therefore, suffer his right to conduct every part of the Worship of Almighty God to be infringed on, either by singers or others. But let him sacredly preserve and calmly maintain his authority, as he who sacrifices this sacrifices not only Methodism, but the spirit and design of Christianity (1805, vol. ii., p. 290).

3. Where Organs have been introduced the Conference requires that they shall be so used as not to

overpower or supersede, but only to assist our congregational singing ; and that they shall be considered as under the control of the Superintendent, or of the officiating Preacher for the time being, whose right and duty it is to conduct every part of the Public Worship of God (1808, vol. iii., p. 29). See pp. 44-46.

4. It is not within the province of any person occupying our pulpits to submit Resolutions and take votes on municipal and semi-political matters, nor to ask the Congregation to vote thereon at the close of the Service in our Chapels on the Lord's Day (1904, p. 361).

General Rules and Usage

And it is hereby declared, that the 'General Rules and Usage of the said People called Methodists' in these presents mentioned or referred to, are the General Rules, Usage, and Practice of the whole Body of the said People called Methodists throughout Great Britain, as the same General Rules, Usage, and Practice respectively appear, in and by the Annual Minutes of the said Conference, from time to time printed and published by them, under the authority of the said in part recited Deed Poll, but subject at all times to the proviso respecting Doctrines in these presents contained (*The Chapel Model Deed*). See p. 723.

How to Guard against Formality in Public Worship, especially in Singing

Q. How shall we guard against formality in Public Worship ?

A. By carefully warning the people against it. By taking care that our own minds are duly affected by the truths we preach ; never losing sight of ourselves. By

choosing such hymns as are suitable to the congregation. By singing not too much at once, seldom more than five or six verses. By suiting the tune to the words. By sometimes seriously asking the people, 'Now, do you know what you said last? Did you speak no more than you felt?'

Do not suffer people to sing too slowly; this naturally tends to formality. In every large Society let them learn to sing; and let them always learn our tunes first. Recommend the Tune-Book everywhere; and if you cannot sing yourself, choose a person or two in each place to pitch the tune for you. Exhort every one, whether man or woman, in the congregation to sing. If a Preacher be present, let no other person give out the words (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., pp. 685, 686). See p. 46.

The Most Useful Way of Preaching

Q. What is the best general method of preaching?

A. To invite, to convince, to offer Christ, to build up; and to do this in some measure in every Sermon. The most effectual way of preaching Christ is to preach Him in all His offices; and to declare His law as well as His Gospel, both to believers and unbelievers. Let us strongly insist upon inward and outward holiness; and, with this view, set forth Christ as evidently crucified before their eyes; Christ in all the riches of His grace, justifying us by His blood, and sanctifying us by His Spirit. Always suit your subject to the state of your audience. Choose the plainest texts you can. Take care not to ramble, but keep to your text, and make out what you take in hand. Be sparing in spiritualizing or allegorizing. Let your whole deportment before the

congregation be serious, weighty, and solemn. Take care of anything awkward or affected, either in your gesture, phrase, or pronunciation. Do not usually pray above eight or ten minutes, before or after the Sermon. Be sure never to disappoint a congregation, unless in case of life or death ; and begin and end exactly at the time. . . . Young Preachers might often exhort without taking a text.

Everywhere avail yourself of the great Festivals, by preaching on the occasion, and singing our hymns, which you should take care to have in readiness (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 685).

N.B.—The principal hymns on the great Festivals of the Church will be found in *The Methodist Hymn-Book*.

Special Services conducted by Strangers

I. The Conference, while unfeignedly rejoicing to receive, with brotherly affection and Christian respect, the occasional visits of duly accredited Ministers from other countries, who may be passing through our Circuits on their journeys, and to be favoured with their temporary ministry, deems it necessary to avoid the very serious inconvenience and injury which have been experienced in some Circuits, by now reprinting, and agreeing to enforce in its letter and spirit, the Minute of 1807, viz. :

Q. Have our people been sufficiently cautious respecting the permission of Strangers to preach to our congregations ?

A. We fear not ; and we, therefore, again direct that no Stranger, from America or elsewhere, be suffered to preach in any of our places, unless he come fully accre-

dited, if an Itinerant Preacher, by having his name entered on the Minutes of the Conference of which he is a member; and, if a Local Preacher, by a commendatory Note from his Superintendent (1807, vol. ii., pp. 404, 405; 1847, vol. x., p. 552).

2. In accordance with Suggestions from certain large District Synods, the Conference deems it expedient to direct Superintendents not to sanction the occupation of any of our Chapels for continuous service by persons who are not amenable to our regular Discipline. The Ministers of the Body are specially referred to *Minutes* for 1847, Q. xxxix., vol. x., pp. 551-3. The object of this record is not to discourage efforts to promote revivals of religion, for these we have ever sought to encourage by such means as consist with sound doctrine and godly order, but to prevent irregularities which tend to impair the true and lasting prosperity of the Church (1862, vol. xv., pp. 326, 327).

3. Considering the many abuses to which the Connexion is continually exposed by applications from unauthenticated Strangers from abroad to use our Trust Property for financial ends, a Committee is appointed to consider the credentials of such (1898, p. 358). For the Committee see *Minutes* for current year.

The Proper Means to promote a Revival

Q. What can be done in order to revive the Work of God where it is decayed? A. Let every Preacher read carefully over the Life and Journals of the late Mr. Wesley, the Life of Mr. Fletcher, and the Life of David Brainerd; and let us be followers of them as they were of Christ, in absolute self-denial, in total deadness to the world, and in fervent love to God and man. Let us only

secure this point, and the world and the devil must fall under our feet.

Let all the Preachers be conscientiously exact in the whole Methodist Discipline ; and take care that no Circuit be at any time without Preachers.

Strongly and explicitly exhort all believers to go on to perfection. We all agree to defend this doctrine ; meaning thereby, salvation from all sin, by the love of God and man filling the heart. We say, 'That this may be attained in this life.' The substance, then, is settled. And as to the circumstance, 'Is this change gradual or instantaneous ?' it is both the one and the other. From the time we are justified there ought to be a gradual sanctification, a growing in grace, a daily advance in the knowledge and love of God. And if sin cease before death, there must, in the nature of the thing, be an instantaneous change. There must be a last moment wherein it does exist, and a first moment wherein it does not. But should we, in preaching, insist both upon the one and the other ? Certainly, we must insist on the gradual work, and that earnestly and constantly. And are there not reasons why we should insist on the instantaneous work also ? If there be such a blessed change before death, should we not encourage all believers to expect it ? And the rather, because constant experience shows that the more earnestly they expect this, the more swiftly and steadily does the gradual work of God go on in their souls ; the more watchful they are against sin, the more careful to grow in grace, the more zealous of good works, and the more punctual in their attendance upon all the ordinances of God. Whereas just the contrary effects are observed whenever this expectation ceases. They are saved by hope ; by

this hope of a total change with a gradually increasing salvation. Destroy this hope, and that salvation stands still, or rather decreases daily. Therefore, whosoever would advance the gradual change in believers should strongly insist on the instantaneous (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., pp. 683, 684).

On Visiting and Instructing the People from House to House

Q. How shall we further assist those who are under our care ? A. By instructing them from house to house. The necessity of this will appear if we consider that personal religion, either towards God or man, is still very much wanted among us. How little living faith is there among us ! How little communion with God ! How little living in heaven, walking in eternity, deadness to every creature ! How much love of the world, desire of pleasure, of ease, of getting money !

How little brotherly love ! What continual judging one another ! What gossiping, evil-speaking, tale-bearing ! What want of moral honesty ! Who does as he would be done by in buying and selling, especially in selling horses ?

Family religion is very much wanting among us. Our religion is not deep, universal, and uniform ; but too superficial, partial, and uneven. Public preaching alone, though we could preach like angels, will not be sufficient to reform those evils ; we must, therefore, visit from house to house.

But we shall find many hindrances to this, both in ourselves and in the people.

1. In ourselves there is much dullness and laziness, so that there will be much ado to get us to be faithful in the work. We have a base, man-pleasing temper, so

that we let men perish, for fear of offending them ; we let them go quietly to hell lest they should be angry with us. Some of us have a foolish bashfulness. We know not how to begin, and blush to contradict the devil. But the greatest hindrance is weakness of faith. Our whole motion is weak, because the spring is weak. We are unskilful in the work. How few know how to deal with men, so as to get within them, and suit all our discourse to their several conditions and tempers ; to choose the fittest subjects, and follow them with a holy mixture of seriousness and terror, of love and meekness !

2. And we shall meet with many difficulties from the people. Some of them will be unwilling to be taught, till we conquer their perverseness by the force of reason and the power of love. We shall find it difficult to fix things in their minds, without which all our labour will be lost. If we have not, therefore, great seriousness and fervency, what good can we expect ? And, after all, it is grace alone that must do the work. And when we have made some good impressions upon their hearts, if we do not look after them, they will die away.

We shall find that many are very ignorant, and know but little of the nature of repentance, of faith, and of holiness. Most of them have a sort of confidence that God will save them, while the world has their hearts, and evil tempers have dominion over them. This private instruction is implied in those solemn words of the Apostle : ' I charge thee, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing, preach the Word ; be instant in season, out of season ; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and doctrine.'

O brethren, if we could set this work on foot in all

our Societies, and prosecute it zealously, what glory would redound to God ! If the common ignorance were banished, and the people in every house and in every shop were busied in speaking of the Word and works of God, surely the Lord would dwell in our habitations, and make us His delight.

And this is absolutely necessary, as many of our people neither repent nor believe to this day. Look round, and see how many are still in danger of damnation ; and then say, How can we walk, and talk, and be cheerful with such people, when we know their case ? When we look such persons in the face, ought we not to break forth into tears, as the prophet did when he looked upon Hazael, and then set upon them with the most vehement and importunate exhortations ? O, for God's sake, and for the sake of poor souls, let us bestir ourselves, and spare no pains that may conduce to their salvation !

What cause have we to blush before the Lord this day, that we have so long neglected this good work ! If we had but set upon it sooner, how many more might have been brought to Christ ! And how much holier and happier might we have made our Societies before now ! And why might we not have done it sooner ? There were many hindrances, and so there always will be. But the greatest hindrance was in ourselves—in our littleness of faith and love.

It is objected : ' This will take up too much time, so that we shall not be able to follow our studies.' Gaining useful knowledge is a good thing ; but still, saving souls is better. By this very thing we shall gain the most excellent knowledge—that of God and eternity. We shall likewise have time for gaining other knowledge,

too, if we spend all our mornings therein. Only sleep not more than we need, and never be idle, or triflingly employed. But if we can do but one, then let our studies alone. Better throw away all the libraries in the world than be guilty of the loss of one soul.

If some people will not submit to it, others will; and the success with them will repay us for all our labour. O, let us follow the example of St. Paul! For our general business, 'Serving the Lord with all humility of mind'; our special work, 'Take heed to yourselves, and to all the flock'; our doctrine, 'Repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ'; the place, 'I have taught you publicly, and from house to house'; the object and manner of teaching, 'I ceased not to warn every one, night and day, with tears'; his innocence and self-denial herein, 'I have coveted no man's silver or gold'; his patience, 'Neither count I my life dear unto myself.' And, among all our motives, let these be ever before our eyes, 'The Church of God, which He hath purchased with His own blood: grievous wolves will enter in; yea, of ourselves men will arise, speaking perverse things.' Let us write this upon our hearts, and it will do us more good than twenty years' study.

We shall find it no easy matter to teach the ignorant the principles of religion. So true is the remark of Bishop Usher: 'Great scholars may think this work beneath them: but they should consider, the laying the foundation skilfully, as it is of the greatest importance, so it is the masterpiece of the wisest builder.' And let the wisest of us all try, whenever we please, we shall find, that to lay this ground-work rightly, to make the ignorant understand the grounds of religion, will put us to the trial of all our skill.

Perhaps, in doing this, it may be well, after a few loving words, spoken to all in the house, to take each person singly into another room, where we may deal closely with him about his sin, his misery, and his duty : these must be set home, or all our labour is lost. At least, let none be present but those who are familiar with each other.

The sum is, go into every house in course, and teach every one therein, young and old, if they belong to us, to be Christians, inwardly and outwardly. Make every particular plain to their understanding, fix it in their memory, write it in their heart. In order to this, there must be line upon line, precept upon precept. What patience, what love, what knowledge is requisite for this !

We may, as we have time, read, explain, and enforce the Instructions for Children ; the fourth volume of Sermons ; and Mr. Henry's Method of Family Prayer.

Do we not loiter away many hours in a day ? Let each try himself : no idleness can consist with growth in grace. Nay, without exactness in redeeming time, we cannot retain the grace we received in justification.

What shall we do for the rising generation ? Unless we take care of this, the present revival will last only the age of a man. Who will labour herein ? Let him that is zealous for God and the souls of men begin now.

We must hear what the Children have learned by heart. Choose some of the weightiest points, and try if they understand them ; such as, ' Do you believe you are a sinner ? What does sin deserve ? What remedy has God provided for guilty, helpless sinners ? '

Often with the question suggest the answer : as, ' What is repentance ? Sorrow for sin, arising from a

conviction that we are guilty, helpless sinners ? ' ' What is faith ? A divine conviction of things not seen ? ' When we perceive that they do not understand the stress of the question, lead them into it by other questions. For instance, we ask, ' How do you think that your sins will be pardoned ? ' They answer, ' By repenting, and amending my life. ' We ask further, ' But will your amendment make satisfaction for your past sins ? ' They will answer, ' I hope so, or I know not what will. ' One would think that these had no knowledge of Christ at all ; and some of them have not. But others have, and give such answers, only because they do not understand the scope of the question. If we ask them further, ' Can you be saved without the death of Christ ? ' they immediately say, ' No ! ' And if we ask, ' What has He suffered for you ? ' they will say, ' He shed His blood for us. ' But many cannot express even what they have some conception of ; no, not even when expressions are put into their mouths. With these we are to deal exceedingly tenderly, lest they be discouraged.

If we perceive them to be troubled, that they cannot answer, we must take the burden off them ; answering the question thoroughly and plainly, making a full explication of the whole business to them.

When we have tried their knowledge, we must proceed to instruct them, according to their several capacities. If a man understand the fundamentals, we must then speak of what we perceive he most needs, either explaining further some doctrine, or some duty, or showing him the necessity of something which he neglects ; if he still understands not, we must go over it again till he does.

Next, inquire into his state, whether convinced or un-

convinced, converted or unconverted, telling him, if need be, what conversion is, and then renew and enforce the inquiry.

If unconverted, we must labour with all our power to bring his heart to a sense of his condition ; setting this home with a more earnest voice than we spoke before.

We must get to the heart or we do nothing : concluding all with a strong exhortation, which should enforce the duty of the heart, in order to receive Christ ; the avoiding former sins ; and constantly using the means of grace ; and be sure, if possible, to get their promise to forsake sin, to change their company, and to wait upon God in His house. Let this be done solemnly, reminding them of the presence of God, who hears their promises and expects the performance.

Before we leave them, engage the head of each family to call all under his care together every Sunday before they go to bed, and hear what they can repeat ; and so continue till they have learned the Instructions for Children perfectly ; and afterwards let him take care that they do not forget what they have learned.

If we do this earnestly we shall soon find what a work we have undertaken in engaging to be Travelling Preachers (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., pp. 686-8). See pp. 699, 700.

Instructing the Children

Where there are ten Children in a Society, we must meet them at least an hour every week ; pray in earnest for them ; diligently instruct and vehemently exhort all parents at their own houses. Some will say, ' I have no gift for this.' Gift or no gift, you are to do this, or else you are not called to be a Methodist Preacher. Do it

as you can, till you can do it as you would. Pray earnestly for the gift, and use every help God hath put into your way, in order to attain it. Preach expressly on the education of Children . . . (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 688). See pp. 700, 701.

Children's Meetings

See pp. 361, 708.

Caring for the Children

Greater efforts should be made either by Ministerial or Junior Society Classes, or by visiting the Sunday Schools, to instruct the young in the great Doctrines of the Gospel (1902, p. 352). See pp. 59-62, 195.

Large Circuits to be Divided into Sections

The Conference directs that each large Circuit be divided into Sections, according to a mutual arrangement to be made by the Ministers at their Weekly Meetings; and that each Minister be held responsible for the visitation of his own Section (1847, vol. x., p. 550; 1885, p. 370).

Official Inquiry concerning Pastoral Visitation

The Conference directs that this important department of Ministerial duty be statedly made the subject of direct and specific inquiry and conversation, both by the Superintendents of Circuits in their Weekly Meeting with their respective Colleagues, and by the Chairmen of Districts in their several District Synods (1847, vol. x., p. 550; 1885, p. 370).

Evening Visitation

See p. 708.

Preaching out of Doors

Q. Have we not used field-preaching too sparingly ?

A. We have. Because our call is to save that which is lost. Now we cannot expect them to seek us. Therefore we should go and seek them ; because we are peculiarly called to go into the highways and hedges, to compel them to come in ; because that reason against it is not good, ' The House will hold all that come ' : the House may hold all that come to the House, but not all that would come to the field.

. . . Whenever the weather will permit, go out in the Name of the Lord into the most public places, and call upon all to repent and believe the Gospel ; every Sunday in particular ; especially where there are old Societies, lest they should settle upon their lees . . . (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 683). See p. 95.

Sunday Evening Prayer Meetings

See p. 705.

Prayer Meetings

See p. 360.

Missionary Prayer Meetings

The Conference recommends to Preachers and People the establishment of Missionary Prayer Meetings, to be held in all our Chapels once a month, wherever it can be made convenient (1815, vol. iv., p. 126 ; 1883, p. 196).

THE LIVERPOOL MINUTES

N.B.—In 1912 the Conference directed that the Liverpool Minutes of 1820, in an abbreviated form,

with the introductory statement prefixed to them, should be read in the May Synods before the Conversation on the state of the work of God, and at the Circuit Ministers' Meetings in September, instead of the Resolutions on Pastoral Work. The Chairmen of Districts are directed to make inquiry concerning the due observance of this requisition, so far as the reading in the Ministers' Meeting is concerned (1885, p. 183; 1912, pp. 368, 642).

The Abbreviated Form

The Conference directs that the following extracts from the Liverpool Minutes of 1820, and the Twelve Rules of a Helper, shall be read, in order :

First, that we may be reminded afresh of the spirit in which our fathers gave themselves to their great work.

Secondly, that we may in the presence of God solemnly reconsecrate ourselves to Him and to the service to which we are called.

Thirdly, that we may carefully consider together the special needs of our own times ; and in particular,

Fourthly, that we may take counsel as to the direction that should now be given to our energies and prayers so that we also may serve our generation by the will of God and build up the Church committed to our care.

1. We, on this solemn occasion, devote ourselves afresh to God ; and resolve, in humble dependence on His grace, to be more than ever attentive to personal religion, and to the Christian instruction and government of our own families.

2. Let us endeavour, in our public ministry, to preach constantly all those leading and vital doctrines of the Gospel which peculiarly distinguished the original Methodist Preachers, whose labours were so signally blessed by the Lord, and to preach them in our primitive method—evangelically, experimentally, zealously, and with great plainness and simplicity—giving to them a decided prominence in every sermon, and labouring to apply them closely, affectionately, and energetically to the consciences of the different classes of our hearers.

3. Let us consecrate ourselves fully and entirely to our proper work as servants of Christ and His Church, giving ourselves ‘wholly’ to it, both in public and in private, and guarding against all occupations of our time and thoughts which have no direct connexion with our great calling, and which would injuriously divert our attention from the momentous task of saving souls, and taking care of the flock of Christ.

4. Let us ‘covet earnestly the best gifts,’ to qualify us for an acceptable and useful ministry; let us seek them in prayer from Him who is the Father of Lights and Fountain of Wisdom; let us ‘stir up,’ and improve by study and diligent cultivation, ‘the gift that is in us’; and strive in every way to be ‘workmen who need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth’; taking care, however, that, whatever other qualifications we may acquire and use, our ministry shall at least, by the divine blessing, be always characterized by sound, evangelical doctrine, by plainness of speech, and by a spirit of tender affection and burning zeal.

5. In order to promote an increase of the congregations, and revival of the work of God, let us have recourse, even in our old-established Circuits, to the

practice of preaching out of doors ; seeking, in order to save, that which is lost.

6. In every Circuit let us try to open new places ; let us try again places which have not been recently visited ; let us be increasingly attentive to the supply and superintendence of the country places already on the Plan ; let us not be satisfied till every town, village, and hamlet in our respective neighbourhoods shall be blessed, as far as we can possibly accomplish it, with the means of grace and salvation,—in a word let every Methodist Preacher consider himself as called to be, in point of enterprise, zeal, and diligence, a Home Missionary, and to enlarge and extend, as well as keep, the Circuit to which he is appointed.

7. Let us, wherever it shall appear to be practicable, especially in the old and large Societies, employ some active, zealous men, whose piety and general character shall be approved by the Leaders' Meetings, to attempt the formation of new Classes in suitable neighbourhoods, where we may hope by that method to gather into the fold of Christ some persons who are 'not far from the kingdom of God,' but who need special invitation, and are not likely to 'give themselves' fully 'to the Lord and to us by the will of God,' without more than ordinary labour and spiritual attention.

8. Let us speak plainly and pointedly in every place, both in those occasional meetings of the Society at which strangers are allowed to be present, and in our sermons, on the duty and advantage of Christian communion ; and exhort all who are seeking salvation to avail themselves without delay of the help of our more private means of grace.

9. Let us encourage public Prayer Meetings, espec-

ally those held at times which do not interfere with our general worship, in the houses of our friends, in different parts of a town or neighbourhood ; such Meetings having been long proved to be, when prudently conducted by persons of established piety and competent gifts, and duly superintended by the Preachers and by the Leaders' Meetings, valuable nurseries for our congregations and Societies, and means of salvation to many who could not have been reached at first in any other method.

10. Let us ourselves remember, and endeavour to impress on our people, that we, as a body, do not exist for the purposes of party ; and that we are especially bound by the example of our Founder, by the original principle on which our Societies are formed, and by our constant professions before the world, to avoid a narrow, bigoted, and sectarian spirit, to abstain from needless and unprofitable disputes on minor subjects of theological controversy, and, as far as we innocently can, to ' please all men for their good unto edification.' Let us, therefore, maintain towards all denominations of Christians, who ' hold the Head,' the kind and catholic spirit of primitive Methodism ; and, according to the noble maxim of our fathers in the Gospel, ' be the friends of all, the enemies of none.'

11. Let us, at least in every large town, establish weekly Meetings for the children of our friends, according to our ancient custom ; and let us pay particular spiritual attention, in public and in private, to the young people of our Societies and congregations.

12. Let us meet the Societies regularly, and let us endeavour to make these meetings interesting and appropriate to our Members.

13. Let us, whenever we have access and opportunity,

be diligent in pastoral visits to our people, at their own houses, especially to the sick, the careless, and the lukewarm.

14. But as such private visits must, in many cases, from our plan of continual itinerancy and village preaching, and from the number of Members in the larger Societies, be greatly limited, let us endeavour so to arrange in our several Circuits the Plans for the quarterly public visitation of the Classes, as to allow full time for a more minute examination into the Christian knowledge, experience, and practice of the Members, and for pastoral inquiries, instructions, and counsels respecting personal and family religion.

15. Let us regularly meet the Class Leaders, and examine their class-books, in town and country, and do all we can to engage both them and our brethren, the Local Preachers, to co-operate with us, in their respective departments, in promoting vital godliness among our people, and extending the work of the Lord.

16. As much depends, under the blessing of God, on the piety, knowledge, zeal, activity, and Christian temper of our Leaders, as well as on their firm attachment to the doctrines, discipline, and cause of Methodism, let us never nominate a new Leader until we have conscientiously satisfied ourselves by previous inquiry, and personal examination, as to the character and qualifications of the person proposed.

17. Let us, whenever a new Leader, nominated by us, and accepted by the Leaders' Meeting, shall be first introduced into the Meeting, take that opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office, and of enforcing them on all present.

18. Let us pay particular attention to backsliders,

and endeavour, in the spirit of meekness, to restore them that have been overtaken in a fault, and by private efforts, as well as by our public ministrations, to recover the fallen out of the snare of the devil.

19. Let us afresh enforce on all our people a conscientious attendance at the Lord's Supper.

20. Let us earnestly exhort our Societies to make the best and most religious use of the rest and leisure of the Lord's Day. Let us admonish any individuals who shall be found to neglect our public worship, under pretence of visiting the sick, or other similar engagements. Let us show to our people the evil of wasting those portions of the Sabbath which are not spent in public worship, in visits, or in receiving company, to the neglect of private prayer, of the perusal of the Scriptures, and of family duties, and, often, to the serious spiritual injury of servants, who are thus improperly employed, and deprived of the public means of grace. Let us set an example in this matter, by refusing for ourselves and for our families, to spend in visits, when there is no call of duty or necessity, the sacred hours of the Holy Sabbath ; and let us never allow the Lord's Day to be secularized by meetings of mere business, when such business refers only to the temporal affairs of the Church of God.

21. In conducting our Leaders' and Quarterly Meetings, and all other official Meetings among us, let us affectionately and steadily discountenance the spirit of strife and debate, and promote, in the management of all our affairs, both by our advice and example, the temper and manner of men who are acting for God in the service of His Church. Let the introduction of all topics of useless or irritating discussion, not legitimately

connected with the proper business of such Meetings, be prudently repressed. Let us remember that, in a large body, the only way to live in peace and comfort is to walk by rule, and 'not to mend our rules, but to keep them for conscience' sake.' And while we readily and cheerfully protect all our Members, in Meetings in which we preside, in the exercise of such functions as belong to them, according to our laws and general usages, let us not forget that we are under solemn obligations to conduct ourselves on such occasions, not as the mere Chairmen of Public Meetings, but as Pastors of Christian Societies, put in trust by the ordinance of God, and by their own voluntary association with us, with the Scriptural superintendence of their spiritual affairs, and responsible to the great Head of the Church for the faithful discharge of the duties of that trust.

22. We affectionately exhort those of our own people, who are laudably active in various benevolent institutions, while they persevere in every good word and work, to guard against the danger of expending all their leisure and influence on mere local and subordinate charities, so as to neglect God's own direct and immediate institutions, such as the public preaching of the Gospel, or to deprive themselves of the opportunity of regularly attending their Classes, and of private prayer and reading of the Holy Scriptures. It should not be forgotten that the great spiritual work of God depends, under the divine blessing, on the general and conscientious use of His institutions; and that, in the success of that work, all other good undertakings among us had their origin, and must ever have their principal support. 'These things ought ye to have done, and not to have left the other undone.'

23. But as we are deeply sensible that the great thing to be desired, in order to a revival and extension of the work of God, without which no resolutions, or labours, or regulations will avail, is a new and more abundant effusion of the Holy Spirit on ourselves, on our Societies, and on our congregations, we solemnly agree to seek that blessing in humble and earnest prayer (1820, vol. v., pp. 147-52 ; 1912, pp. 642-647).

The Twelve Rules of a Helper

1. Be diligent. Never be unemployed. Never be triflingly employed. Never *while* away time, nor spend more time at any place than is strictly necessary.

2. Be serious. Let your motto be, 'Holiness to the Lord.' Avoid all lightness, jesting, and foolish talking.

3. Converse sparingly and cautiously with women, particularly with young women.

4. Take no step towards marriage without solemn prayer to God, and consulting with your Brethren.

5. Believe evil of no one unless fully proved ; take heed how you credit it. Put the best construction you can on everything. You know the Judge is always supposed to be on the prisoner's side.

6. Speak evil of no one ; else *your* word, especially, would eat as doth a canker. Keep your thoughts within your own breast till you come to the person concerned.

7. Tell every one what you think wrong in him, lovingly and plainly ; and as soon as may be, else it will fester in your own heart. Make all haste to cast the fire out of your bosom.

8. Do not affect the gentleman. A Preacher of the Gospel is the servant of all.

9. Be ashamed of nothing but sin ; no, not of cleaning your own shoes, when necessary.

10. Be punctual. Do everything exactly at the time. And do not mend our Rules, but keep them ; and that for conscience' sake.

11. You have nothing to do but to save souls. Therefore spend and be spent in this work. And go always, not only to those who want you, but to those who want you most.

12. Act in all things, not according to your own will, but as a Son in the Gospel, and in union with your Brethren.

As such, it is your part to employ your time as our Rules direct : partly in preaching, and visiting from house to house ; partly in reading, meditation, and prayer. Above all, if you labour with us in our Lord's vineyard, it is needful that you should do that part of the work which the Conference shall advise, at those times and places which they shall judge most for His glory.

Observe : It is not your business to preach so many times, and to take care merely of this or that Society, but to save as many souls as you can ; to bring as many sinners as you possibly can to repentance ; and, with all your power, to build them up in that holiness without which they cannot see the Lord.

And remember, a Methodist Preacher is to mind every point, great and small, in the Methodist Discipline. Therefore you will need all the grace and all the sense you have, and to have all your wits about you (*Minutes*, vol. i., p. 678).

Resolutions on Pastoral Work

N.B.—In 1885 the Conference adopted a codification of the Resolutions on Pastoral Work, and directed

that a copy, in pamphlet form, should be presented, under the direction of the Chairman, to every Preacher on Trial in his District, on his appointment to his first Circuit. The Conference further directed that these Resolutions should be bound up with the *Large Minutes*, as an Appendix, and that every Candidate for the Ministry should be required to read them. See *Minutes*, 1885, p. 183. For the Resolutions see *Summary*, pp. 694-709.

Preachers to Restrict their Visits to other Circuits

See p. 706.

Preachers not to Follow Trades

Q. Should any of our Preachers follow trades? A. The question is not whether they may not occasionally work with their hands, as St. Paul did, but whether it be proper for them to buy or sell any kind of merchandise. It is fully determined that this shall not be done by any Preacher; no, not the selling of pills, drops, or balsams (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 682).

Q. Do we agree to confirm our former Rules prohibiting the Travelling Preachers from engaging in secular concerns? A. Certainly; and we determine, that if any Travelling Preacher or Missionary be employed in, or carry on, any trade, he shall, on proof thereof, be excluded from the Itinerant Plan; as we judge that such a pursuit of private emolument is incompatible with our Ministerial duties (1804, vol. ii., pp. 239, 240). For *Missiories*, see p. 433.

Party Politics

I. As the spirit of the times exposes us, in common with our people, to peculiar excitements and temptations

in reference to matters foreign to the exclusive calling of Methodist Ministers, we resolve, in dependence upon the grace of God, to keep aloof from all merely party purposes, and from party spirit ; and to caution and warn our people against these evils (1835, vol. vii., p. 552). See p. 704.

2. It is highly inexpedient, and perilous to the peace of the Body, that any Preacher should, on his individual authority, issue General Circulars addressed to our Preachers, Stewards, or other officers, as such, or to our People distinctively, in their religious character and capacity as Wesleyan Methodists ; such Circulars being intended and calculated to engage their attention and activity, as Methodists distinctively, on any political subject which may be agitated at the time by the several parties in the State (1837, vol. viii., p. 223).

3. The Conference recognizes on the one hand the individual freedom of its Ministers as Christian citizens, and on the other hand their responsibility to each other and the Conference as members of a non-political Body, and confides in their loyalty and honour so to regulate and control their public action as not to imperil the unity of the Ministerial Brotherhood, or disturb the peace of the Connexion at large (1875, vol. xix., pp. 714, 715).

See *Trust Properties and Political Meetings, &c.*, p. 58.

Solemnization of Matrimony in our Chapels

1. The Conference directs that the 'Form of the Solemnization of Matrimony' . . . which has been carefully revised . . . shall be used, in connexion with other suitable prayers and exhortations, by our Ministers, in

the solemnization of all marriages at which they may officiate.

2. The Conference further enjoins that the 'Directions relative to the Solemnization of Marriages in Wesleyan Chapels in England and Wales' . . . shall be also published : and in order to the security and the edifying character of such services, as well as to their strict conformity to the existing law of the land, the various Regulations contained in this publication shall be scrupulously observed.

3. Proper Books, with printed Forms for the Registration of Marriages in our Chapels, shall be immediately published. The Superintendent Ministers of those Circuits in which there may be any Chapel registered for the celebration of marriages are enjoined to provide such a Book for each Chapel, and are held responsible for the due ecclesiastical registration of all marriages performed in that Place of Worship (1847, vol. x., p. 551). See *Book of Public Prayers and Services*, pp. 253-61 ; Appendix I. See pp. 513, 514.

Marriage Act, 1898

N.B.—1. A copy of the Act with the Statutory Rules and Orders (No. 77), 1899, may be obtained from the Book Room.

2. In 1899 the Conference strongly recommended that the Act be immediately adopted in every Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in England and Wales which is registered for the Solemnization of Marriages (1899, pp. 250, 251).

Burial of the Dead

For the Order for the Burial of the Dead see *Book of Public Prayers and Services*, pp. 262-8 ; Appendix II.

Prison Chaplains

Superintendent Ministers of Circuits in which County or Borough Prisons are situate are required to furnish each year in September to the Ministerial Secretary of the Army and Navy Board the name and address of a Minister in the Circuit for recognition by the Governor of such jail as authorized to visit any Wesleyan prisoners (1903, p. 362).

Assistants to Senior Ministers

1. In the event of a Minister who has travelled forty years and upwards desiring an Assistant, the application shall be considered during the Representative Session of the Conference by a Committee of four Ministers and four Laymen. Should any case arise after the close of the Representative Session, the four Laymen shall be chosen from the Lay Representatives of the District in which the Conference is held.

2. Except in those cases in which the Conference shall decide that the whole of the expense shall be borne by the Connexional Fund, the support of any Assistant who may be appointed shall be provided for as follows: One-third by the Minister assisted, or by the Circuit to which he is appointed; one-third by the Auxiliary Fund; and one-third by the Connexional Fund. The expense shall be calculated so as to include the amount which it may be necessary to reserve to meet prospective charges on Connexional Funds (1893, pp. 318, 319).

Supplies

1. Any Minister needing a Supply is directed to communicate with the Chairman of the District before

applying to the President ; and the Chairman is also directed to satisfy himself, by personal inquiry, that an efficient local Supply cannot be obtained (1871, vol. xviii., pp. 403, 404 ; 1876, vol. xx., p. 160).

2. Any Minister on whose behalf a Supply has been appointed shall retain the Supply for one month after he has given notice to the President that his services will no longer be required,—unless the President has employment for him sooner. And such Minister, when he gives notice to the President that, after a given date, the services of the Supply will be no longer required, shall, at the same time, notify the fact to the Chairman of the District (1889, p. 309). See 1914, p. 381.

3. The Ex-President shall furnish to the Conference, at the commencement of the Pastoral Session, a list of all Ministers who have had Supplies during any part of the preceding year, with the dates in each case on which the Supply was sent and withdrawn. And on receiving this list, the Conference shall appoint a Committee to inquire whether these Ministers are physically competent to take Circuits (1889, p. 309). See 1914, p. 381.

Payment of Supplies

See p. 158.

IV. SUPERNUMERARIES

Term of Active Service

The Conference records its judgement that, since the accuracy of the forecast made by the Committee of the Auxiliary Fund depends on the assumption that the average duration of Active Service and of Supernumeraryship remain as at present (thirty-eight years in the one

case and eleven years in the other), no claim for Grant should ordinarily arise until thirty-four years after Ordination unless the Claimant is medically certified as unable to continue to discharge his work efficiently, or unless the Conference shall in any particular case otherwise direct. The number of years each Minister has travelled who applies to become a Supernumerary shall be presented in the Conference Agenda (*Journal*, 1912, 1913; *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 390, 391.)

Supernumeraries and District Synods

1. Supernumerary Ministers, with the exception of those who have received permission to reside abroad, shall be considered to belong to the Districts in which their names appear in the *Minutes* of the Conference. They shall attend the Annual Synods of their own Districts, unless they receive a Dispensation allowing them to be absent. They shall be subject to their own Synods in all matters of Discipline. In case of unavoidable absence from the Annual Synod, they shall send to the Chairman, in due time, a statement concerning their continued belief in our Doctrines.

2. A Supernumerary who removes into another District after the publication of the *Minutes* of the Conference may, by arrangement with his own Chairman, attend the Synod of the District in which he resides. In that case he must give notice to the Chairman of the District in which he is resident of his intention to be present at the Synod. Such attendance, however, shall not, in any degree, remove him from the jurisdiction of his own Synod, to which he is responsible in all matters of Doctrine and Discipline (1900, pp. 230, 231).

3. Since all Supernumeraries are required to attend

the May Synod, their expenses shall be paid by the Financial Secretary, and included in the Synod Assessment to the Circuits of the District (1911, p. 348).

N.B.—The Synod Assessment is for Circuit Expenses. See pp. 380, 381.

District Synods and Stationing Committee

In ordinary cases, no Preacher shall be declared a Supernumerary without the previous recommendation of the District Synod to which he belongs, or of the Stationing Committee (*Journal*, 1832). See pp. 636, 637.

Temporary Supernumeraryship

1. Ministers who have travelled not more than twenty-one years, and have lost their health, may be allowed to retire for one year ; and may, if in necessitous circumstances, receive, in addition to the Allowances payable from the Annuitant Society and Connexional Funds, a sum not exceeding £80, of which one-half shall be provided by the Connexional Fund, the other half being paid by the Auxiliary Fund. Each case shall be considered by a mixed Committee of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Conference—namely, the Ex-President, three Ministers, and three Laymen. Should the Conference deem it indispensable, a second year's Grant may be allowed (1870, vol. xviii., p. 151 ; 1871, vol. xviii., p. 449 ; 1878, pp. 233, 234).

2. Where a Minister, who becomes a Supernumerary for one year, is not a member of the Annuitant Society, the amount which would have been paid to him as a member of that Society shall be deducted from the extra Grant made by the Committees of the Auxiliary Fund and Connexional Fund (1887, p. 261 ; 1888, p. 318).

Temporary Supernumeraryship in relation to the Legal Conference

See p. 626.

Supernumeraries who are Members of the Legal Conference

Any Supernumerary who is a member of the Legal Conference, and is unable to pay his travelling expenses to and from the Conference, shall be entitled to receive such expenses if the Annual Committee of the Connexional Fund, to which application must be made, shall approve (1896, p. 332).

Compulsory Supernumeraryship

1. When the Conference has decided that a Minister shall not be appointed to a Circuit for any other reason than physical incompetence, his case shall be considered by a Special Committee, to be appointed by the Conference in its Representative Session. This Committee shall determine whether any, and if any what, annual Allowances shall be paid to him; or whether any, and if any what, sums shall be offered to him on condition of his retirement from the Ministry. The Committee shall further advise the Conference as to the sources whence such payment shall be made in each case.

2. Representatives of the following Funds shall be among the persons appointed on the Committee: The Auxiliary Fund, Connexional Fund, and Children's Fund in both its branches.

3. The members of the Annuitant Society shall be asked to treat Ministers who may retire from the Ministry under these arrangements, in the matter of compensation, as though they had resigned (1896, p. 321).

Compulsory Supernumeraryship in relation to the District Synod

In the case of any Minister who has been made a Supernumerary on the ground of either (a) discipline or (b) difficulty in finding him a Circuit, no District Synod shall recommend his reappointment unless some Circuit in that District is willing to receive him, or he shall have received an invitation to a Circuit in another District ; and no such Minister shall be reappointed to a Circuit unless recommended by the District Synod to which he belongs (1892, p. 218 ; 1899, p. 246).

Grants for Furniture

Grants for Furniture to Ministers when they become Supernumeraries, or to the Widows of Ministers who have died in the work, shall no longer be made by the Auxiliary Fund, but by the Connexional Fund (1853, vol. xii., p. 264 ; 1879, pp. 241, 242 ; 1900, pp. 269, 270).

In all cases where a House is needed for the orphans of a Deceased Minister, the usual Grant for Furniture shall be allowed (1875, vol. xix., p. 683).

Luggage

N.B.—The removal of the luggage of a Supernumerary Minister from his Circuit is considered a Connexional Expense.

Relation of Supernumeraries to the Auxiliary Fund

See *Minutes*, 1839, vol. viii., pp. 506-10. See also *Summary*, pp. 377-79.

All Ministers, whether members of the Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society or not, shall be equally entitled to the benefit of the Auxiliary Fund (1872, vol. xviii., pp. 636, 637).

Grants for Affliction from Auxilliary Fund

N.B.—In every case a statement must be presented to the Chairman of the District, at least a week before the meeting of the Synod, showing the annual amount received by the applicant from the Annuitant Society ; the amount of claims on the Worn-Out Ministers' Fund and the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children ; what is received from Marris's Fund, or from any private source ; what the Grant, if any, received last year ; together with the reasons of the present application. See *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 93.

French Ministers in the Channel Islands

In future, when a French Minister who has served in the Channel Islands becomes a Supernumerary, there shall be paid, during each year of his Supernumeraryship, from the Auxiliary Fund to the French Auxiliary Fund, the sum of £1 per year for each year of active Circuit work, from the Conference of 1884, in the Channel Islands, and one half of this sum in the case of a Widow (1884, p. 226).

Children of Supernumerary and Deceased Ministers

1. An allowance of six guineas per annum shall be regularly granted from the Children's Fund towards the maintenance of the Children of Supernumerary and of Deceased Preachers, until they attain the age of seventeen years, on the same plan as that on which a similar Allowance is now made from the same Fund to the Children of Preachers actually stationed in Circuits.

2. The same Allowance, like that to Children of

Preachers still engaged in the work, shall also be regularly granted out of the same Fund, from the age of seventeen to that of twenty, to such Children of Supernumerary or Deceased Preachers as shall so long continue to be more or less dependent on their parents, or surviving parent, or on their relatives and friends, in point of pecuniary support (1837, vol. viii., p. 215).

N.B.—At present the Allowance ceases when the Child is nineteen years old. See p. 148.

3. These Regulations shall not be understood as applying in the case of any Preacher who may marry while his name is on the List of Supernumeraries, so far as regards the Children that may be born of such marriage during the time that he is a Supernumerary (1837, vol. viii., p. 215).

4. The usual and stated annual Allowances for Education to such Children . . . shall be paid out of the Children's Fund subject to the existing Regulations in these cases (1844, vol. x., p. 79 ; *Journal*, 1861).

If any Preacher have Children born after the time when he became a Supernumerary, such Children shall have no claim for Education upon the Children's Fund ; but in any necessitous case, application for assistance may be made to the Auxiliary Fund (1829, vol. vi., p. 500).

N.B.—The Children of Supernumeraries and Deceased Ministers are eligible for admission to Kingswood School, and Trinity Hall, Southport.

Entering into Business

1. When a Preacher declared by the Conference to be a Supernumerary shall have travelled eighteen years or upwards, it should be assumed, as a general principle,

that he ought not to be advised to go into business, but should employ the remainder of his life and strength in such occasional Ministerial and Pastoral services as his health may permit, and as the Conference, with due regard to his family circumstances, or local connexions, may appoint, and should receive, as matter of course, the aid of the Auxiliary Fund, according to his standing.

2. Every Preacher, declared by the Conference to be a Supernumerary, having travelled less than eighteen years, shall be considered as entitled to receive, as matter of course, the aid of the Auxiliary Fund for the term of three years. But, at the expiration of that term, his case shall be specially considered by the Conference with a view to decide whether the Hand of God shall have been so laid upon him by affliction, or otherwise, as to make it clear that, under all the circumstances, he ought, or ought not, to employ himself in some suitable business, so as to exempt him from the necessity of applying for the additional aid afforded by the Auxiliary Fund. The terms of his being brought under such an exemption, if it be advised, in reference to the Connexional and the Ministers' Children's Fund, shall be settled by special stipulation, in each particular case, according to circumstances. He shall then cease to be regarded as a Supernumerary, and become an accredited Local Preacher. But if the Conference do not advise his entrance into business at all, he shall then be certified to the Auxiliary Fund Committee, as a Supernumerary Preacher, entitled, according to his standing, as a matter of course, to the additional pecuniary benefits provided by that Fund.

3. Any Preacher, declared a Supernumerary, and having travelled less than eighteen years, who, being

advised by the Conference to enter into business, refuses or neglects to do so, shall have no further claim, as matter of course, on the Auxiliary Fund ; but his case may be referred, if recommended by his District Synod, for discretionary relief to the Auxiliary Fund Committee.

4. All Supernumerary Preachers, whatever may be their standing in the work, who shall in future enter into business, whether with the advice of the Conference, or by their own choice and decision, shall be considered as accredited Local Preachers only, and not entitled to have their names retained in our *Journal*, or on the *Minutes* (1839, vol. viii., pp. 509, 510).

5. No Supernumerary entering into business shall be entitled to receive anything from the Auxiliary Fund for a longer period than two years after he shall have so entered into business.

6. Ministers entering into business, and so retiring from the work, shall not be entitled to receive the Allowances from any of our Funds on behalf of such Children as may be born before they enter into business, for a longer period than two years; and for such Children as may be born after their retirement, they have no claim whatever (*Journal*, 1852).

Marriage of Supernumeraries

In the case of Supernumeraries marrying after they become such, the same Regulations shall be considered in force with respect to the Auxiliary Fund, as are now adopted in similar cases by the Preachers' Annuitant Society (1839, vol. viii., p. 510).

N.B.—The Regulation of the Annuitant Society is as follows :

No woman who shall marry a member of this Society

after he has been declared by the Conference a Supernumerary, and incapable of performing the duties of a Methodist Minister, shall, after his decease, receive any benefit from this Society, unless she had previously been an Annuitant, in which case her former Annuity shall revive. But this Rule shall not apply to Ministers who have been allowed by the Conference to rest for one year (Rule XV.).

See p. 754.

Supernumeraries or other Ministers resident abroad

1. No Minister is allowed to be absent from the country during a great part of the year without the consent of the Yearly Conference, or, in case of emergency, of the President, who shall report the case to the ensuing Conference.

2. Any Minister having permission to reside abroad shall have such permission annually renewed.

3. If any Minister remain abroad for more than one year, he shall be required either to make arrangements with the Officers of our Connexional Funds, with a view to retiring from the English Work, or to furnish the Conference annually with a satisfactory Report from some other Methodist Conference in recognized relation with this Conference.

4. If, during his residence abroad, any Minister shall enter into business, or shall accept office of emolument of any kind, he is required, without delay, to notify the fact to the Chairman of the District where his name appears on the Stations.

5. In all such cases, the existing Rule which requires the presence of a Minister at the Annual District Synod shall be held to be binding, unless his absence has been

expressly sanctioned in accordance with the foregoing Resolutions; and even in that case he is required to furnish a statement in due time containing an answer to the Question in the *Order and Form of Business in District Synods* as to his continued belief in our Doctrines.

6. Supernumerary Ministers connected with the British Conference, residing in Ireland, shall report to the Irish Synod to which the Circuit in which they reside belongs; and Supernumerary Ministers connected with the Irish Conference, residing in England, shall report to the English Synod to which the Circuit in which they reside belongs.

7. Any Minister having permission to reside abroad shall furnish a Report as to his Ministerial conduct from the proper authority, as defined in the above, or in the letter from the President giving the required permission.

8. A list of all such Ministers shall be annually printed in the *Minutes of Conference* at the end of the Stations (1888, p. 215; 1893, p. 362; 1908, pp. 353, 377).

Supernumeraries returning to the Full Work

The Conference resolves that in all cases where it is recommended that Supernumerary Ministers shall return to the Full Work, inquiry and report shall be made by the Committee appointed at Conference to examine the cases of those Ministers who have had Supplies during the year (1897, p. 244). See p. 632.

V. MINISTERS WITHOUT PASTORAL CHARGE

1. Any Minister wishing to maintain his Ministerial status whilst holding no definite appointment to a

Circuit or a Department, and without becoming a Supernumerary, shall apply for permission through the District Synod to the Conference, which shall decide the case after a full examination of it by a Special Committee.

2. Any such Minister shall continue to be in every way subject to our Discipline, including the usual inquiries as to Character and Doctrine.

3. No such Minister shall receive any payment from the Auxiliary Fund during, or on account of, the years in which he shall occupy the position herein described ; and he shall pay the Yearly Assessments to the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children on the same scale as Ministers appointed to Departments ; and he shall then continue to receive the benefit of those Funds in the ordinary course.

4. The name of every such Minister shall stand upon the *Minutes* in connexion with some Circuit, and following his name shall be these words : ' Resides in this Circuit without pastoral charge.' Nevertheless, he shall not, as a Minister, be a member of the Quarterly Meeting or of any Leaders' Meeting in the Circuit (1888, p. 215).

5. In the case of a member of the Legal Conference having been entered on the *Minutes* as without pastoral charge, in conformity with the Resolutions of the Conference of 1888, the Conference resolves that, at the expiration of four years from the commencement of such an arrangement, he shall cease to be a member of the Legal Conference. The effect of this Resolution shall not be retrospective (1890, p. 212).

6. The Conference resolves that the following Question be inserted in the *Order and Form of Business* of the Pastoral Session of the Annual District Synod : ' Is

there any Minister without Pastoral charge residing in this District, and, if so, does the Synod recommend that the present arrangement be continued ? ' (1914, p. 370).

Assessment for Children's Fund

See pp. 382, 396.

VI. HOME MISSIONARY MINISTERS

For Compendium of Regulations relating to the Home Mission Fund see *Minutes*, 1879, pp. 224-42.

Appointment

All applications for the appointment of Home Missionary Ministers are to be sanctioned by the Quarterly Meetings and by the District Synods (1879, p. 235).

N.B.—All applications for additional Ministers, or for the reduction of the number of Ministers in any Circuit, shall be considered by the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, which shall report thereon to the Synod (*Journal*, 1894 ; *Minutes*, 1896, p. 359).

Regulations for the Employment of a Home Missionary Minister

1. The object proposed in the appointment of additional Ministers to aggressive or Missionary work in our own country, is, that specific attention may be given to the neglected and careless portion of the population of our large towns and the rural districts. . . .

2. When any Circuit requests the appointment of a Home Missionary Minister, an engagement shall be entered into that his labours shall be devoted to a separate district or neighbourhood ; and that such evangelical labours shall not be diverted from their proper object,

even by the supplying of vacancies occasioned by temporary absence or inability of other Ministers. A change of appointments with the other Ministers of the Circuits (in the forenoon, where practicable) is, however, desirable. Such a change will bring the Missionary Minister into desirable communion with the established congregations, beneficially exercise his preaching talents, and secure general sympathy. With this exception, it is manifestly important, in order to the concentration both of labour and responsibility, that the Minister so employed should give himself wholly to his distinctive and proper work (1878, p. 224).

Duties of a Home Missionary Minister

He should daily visit from house to house in his district, until all have been visited ; avoiding, however, the usual hours for meals, when the poor naturally object to be intruded upon by strangers. He should read the Scriptures and offer prayer, if practicable, in every case ; and, where this is not practicable, he should introduce as much Scripture as possible in conversation, giving prominence to the great doctrines which concern the sinfulness of man, and his salvation from sin and from its consequences, through the one perfect sacrifice of Christ, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit. He should urge the duties of prayer, reading the Scriptures, and habitual attendance on the Public Worship of Almighty God, earnestly inviting the people to any of our regular or occasional services in the neighbourhood. In these visitations suitable tracts should, if possible, be distributed in every house. He should inculcate on parents the duty of training up their children religiously, and the importance of sending them to Week-day and Sun-

day Schools. He should faithfully, but prudently and affectionately, reprove sin ; especially profaneness, intemperance, and Sabbath-breaking. Care should be taken to avoid all unnecessary controversy, or the introduction of subjects calculated to produce irritation ; and to create, by a truly Christian spirit and demeanour, an affectionate sympathy and confidence between the Minister and those who are visited by him. Without such visitation from house to house, and this individual dealing with the people, there can be no reasonable hope of their being gathered into the Church of Christ.

The sick and dying imperatively demand the care of the Minister. He will often find affliction aggravated by deep poverty ; and while it is not presumed that he will be able to relieve all such cases, he may, with advantage to his work, refer them to our various Benevolent Institutions ; or, by application to the affluent, obtain means for their partial relief.

He should preach out of doors, at every suitable opportunity, in a simple, earnest, and affectionate manner, especially in the thickly populated and destitute parts of our towns, and also in villages not at present visited by our Ministers.

It would often be practicable, in addition to regular Public Worship, to obtain a room for a short service in the evening ; and sometimes two services might be held, in different localities, on the same evening. These services would be extemporized and informal, consisting, in the main, of that simple and faithful preaching of Christ crucified, which, applied by the Holy Spirit, is the power of God unto salvation.

It is of the utmost importance that the Minister should not attempt to embrace too large a sphere of

action, either as regards population or district. The effect of repeated visits will be to secure greater mutual sympathy, to make his efforts more impressive, to enable him to mark the effect upon the minds and lives of the people, and more certainly to secure the spiritual harvest.

In most places pious and earnest Members of Society will be ready to accompany the Minister, and to help him in various departments of his work ; and such training will eminently fit them for extensive usefulness in the Church (1878, pp. 224-6).

Journal and Reports

Each Home Missionary Minister is to keep a Journal specifying the number of visits paid and of religious services held by him ; the number of persons who have been prevailed upon to attend the House of God ; of those who have been gathered into fellowship with the Church ; and of children obtained for our Schools. The Journal should note remarkable instances of ignorance, and social and moral degradation ; and the strictest accuracy must be observed, and great pains bestowed, in reporting the results of the work undertaken. . . .

Each Minister thus employed will be supplied with two Journals. One of these he will use for three months, at the expiration of which it must be sent to the Secretary for the inspection of the Committee. He will then use the other for three months ; and at the end of each quarter the Journals will be interchanged. . . .

The Missionary Minister must also furnish an Annual Report to the Committee of Management, not later than the end of June. This is to be an independent document, and not a copy of the Journal. This Report may include statements of great spiritual destitution, and

instances of permanent religious good. A few well-selected cases, given in detail and with fullness, will best serve the purpose. The Report should also contain a summary of the work done (visits, services, etc.) as detailed in the Journal.

Each Home Missionary Minister is directed to forward to the General Secretary, for the information of the Committee, a copy of the Circuit Plan, and a quarterly statement of the number of full and accredited Church Members, and of persons on Trial, in connexion with the place or places assigned to him as his Mission district (1878, pp. 226, 227).

Relation to Superintendents

The Superintendent under whose care Home Missionary Ministers are placed will be responsible for their proper employment, as before defined, and must not allow them to be diverted from it. If, in any case, it be judged expedient to make an existing Place of Worship the centre of Missionary operations, such an arrangement must not interfere with the preceding Regulations. The Superintendent is expected to peruse the Journal of the Missionary ; to give the Committee of Management regular information of the spiritual and financial condition of the work ; and to present annually to the District Synod a Report of the operations of these Missions (1878, p. 227).

Inquiry at District Synod

A special inquiry shall be made at the May District Synods, whether the Regulations for the employment of Home Missionary Ministers, adopted by the Conference, have been faithfully observed in the Circuits to which

Home Missionary Ministers are appointed ; and a Report in each case shall be made to the Conference (1862, vol. xv., p. 327).

Connexional Evangelists

1. The Home Mission Committee has authority, in concert with the Superintendent of the Circuit, to employ, in addition to District Missionaries, Ministers and Lay Agents for general evangelistic work in different parts of the Connexion ; the arrangements for the employment of such Evangelistic Agents to be left with the Home Mission Committee (1881, p. 239 ; 1883, p. 211).

2. The direction of the work of the Ministerial Connexional Evangelists shall be in the hands of the Home Mission Committee, acting through a Sub-Committee, to be annually appointed for the purpose. This Sub-Committee shall receive requests from Circuits desiring visits from the Evangelists, and such requests shall, if it be thought desirable, be made through the Chairmen of the Districts and by the Synod Home Mission and Chapel Committees.

3. The conditions under which Special Missions are now organized and conducted are so varied that an arbitrary time-limit as to their duration is undesirable. In many cases a longer period than ten days should be given to a particular place. In future, therefore, the length of Evangelistic Missions, and other conditions arising therefrom, shall be left entirely at the discretion of the Home Mission Committee in consultation with the Circuits concerned and with the Chairmen of the Districts and the Synod Home Mission and Chapel Committees (1910, p. 40).

See Report on Connexional Evangelists, 1910, pp. 36-40.

Army and Navy Ministers

N.B.—In 1903 the Conference reorganized the Army and Navy Work. For the Scheme of Reorganization see *Minutes*, 1903, pp. 46-8.

Relation of Chaplains to District Synods

1. The Chaplains appointed to the Mediterranean Stations shall be regarded as members of the Second London District Synod, but shall not be required to attend the Meetings of the Synod every year.

2. All Army and Navy Chaplains shall be members of the Synods in which the Garrisons or Stations are situated, and shall be subject to such Synods, especially in the matter of inquiry as to Doctrine, Discipline, and efficiency in work, and shall act under the Board of Managers, and of the Minister appointed by Conference to be Secretary of the Board of Managers. They shall also, in harmony with the Standing Order of the Conference, send in their Reports of work and returns of the number of Wesleyans under their care, to their respective District Synods for consideration and report. These Reports shall be forwarded with the remarks of the Synod thereon to the Secretary of the Board of Managers (1903, p. 48 ; 1910, p. 179).

Instructions to Chairmen and Superintendents in Foreign Districts

The Chairmen and Superintendents of our Foreign Mission Districts and Stations where there are Garrison and Naval Ports are instructed to make such arrangements with the Naval and Military authorities as may be necessary for the benefit of Methodist Soldiers and

Seamen, in concert with the Army and Navy Board (1889, p. 317).

Reports and Returns to District Synods

All Ministers working for the benefit of Soldiers and Sailors in Stations where Methodist Homes already exist, or shall be established, shall include in their quarterly Reports an account of the work done in the Homes ; and at the May Synods the financial condition of such Homes shall be reported, as in the case of other Trust properties (1887, p. 227).

The following information shall be presented from each of our Military and Naval Stations to the May Synods ; together with a Report of the work done for the benefit of our Soldiers and Sailors :

(1) The number of declared Methodists in the Army and Royal Navy, including the Coastguard, taken for December 31 of each year.

(2) The numbers of Members of Society in the Army and Royal Navy, including the wives and children of Soldiers and Seamen.

(3) The average attendance at Divine Service during the year.

(4) The amount of Capitation and other official payments for the year.

In the case of Home Stations, these Reports and Returns shall be submitted to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, which shall present them, with needful remarks thereupon, to the Synod (1888, p. 311).

Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes

In addition to the Connexional sanction already required by our Rules before any property can be ac-

quired for Methodist purposes, Ministers or other persons connected with our Societies contemplating the erection or acquisition of a Soldiers' or Sailors' Home shall communicate with the Army and Navy Board; and no binding arrangements shall be entered into until the written consent of the Home Mission Committee and of the Foreign Missionary Committee respectively shall have been received (1887, p. 227).

Army and Navy Ministers in relation to Circuit Work

Ministers who are appointed to Army and Navy Work are not to be considered as Ministers of the Circuit in which they may be stationed, so as to be claimed for Circuit work, unless special arrangements be made with the Army and Navy Board. After their proper work has been efficiently done, they may give such help to the Circuit as they can, but only by arrangement in writing between the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Army and Navy Board. Their personal conduct is to be under the cognizance of the Superintendent of the Circuit and the District Synod, subject to the before-mentioned conditions (1888, p. 311).

Capitation Payments and Pastoral Duties

Wherever Capitation payments are received on behalf of our Methodist Soldiers and Seamen, the pastoral duties which are entailed thereby shall be strictly fulfilled, and every facility and encouragement given to the men, their wives and families to become attached to the Services of the Chapels in which, by these payments, they are now seatholders (1888, p. 311).

Leaders' and Quarterly Meetings

See pp. 80, 136, 137, 146.

Ministers' Weekly Meeting

See p. 137.

Seamen's Missionary

The Seamen's Missionary is placed, in relation to the Home Mission Committee, in a similar position to that in which Home Missionary Ministers stand ; and a Special Report of the Mission shall be periodically presented to the Home Mission Committee, and an Annual Report, through the District Synod, to the Conference (1878, p. 217).

VII. DEPARTMENTAL MINISTERS**Appointments to New Departments**

In future no Minister shall be set apart for the work of a new Department without the question of such an appointment having been referred to the Synods for their judgement (1903, p. 114).

Reappointments to Departments

In all cases in which a Minister has served a term in a Connexional office, if he be proposed for re-election, special reasons shall be assigned to the Conference as in the case of a Minister whom it is desired to retain in a Circuit beyond a period of three years (1908, p. 114).

Nomination

1. Twelve months before the end of any term of Departmental Office, the Committee in charge of the Department shall submit to the Representative Session

of the Conference the name or names of one or more Ministers, not exceeding three, in nomination for that office; of whom the Officer for the time being may, or may not, be one. The Pastoral Session of the Conference shall designate for appointment one of the three nominated by the Representative Session. In any case of emergency which may arise during the Representative Session, involving immediate appointment, a similar course shall be taken. In case of an emergency arising after the close of the Representative Session, the Pastoral Session shall have the right to appoint without a previous nomination (1886, p. 204; 1890, p. 423; 1906, pp. 369, 370). See pp. 394, 395.

2. If any question seriously affecting Ministerial character or fidelity should be raised upon a proposed name in the Representative Session of the Conference, the nominations for designation for appointment to the office in question shall be postponed without discussion to the Representative Session of the following Conference, when the nominations shall be made under the Regulations affecting nominations in cases of emergency for immediate appointment. By this arrangement the objection would be considered and decided by the Pastoral Session of the Conference in the Representative Session of which it has been raised (1903, p. 361; 1904, p. 112; 1905, pp. 99, 356).

3. On any vacancy or vacancies arising in any Departmental Offices by death, retirement, expiration of term, or otherwise, the General Committee of the Department shall prepare a Report concerning such vacancy or vacancies. This Report shall contain a reasoned statement as to the particular features of the appointment which has to be made.

4. The Committee may also submit the name of one or more Ministers, not exceeding three, whom it deems suitable for the vacancy.

5. The Committee of any Department in which a vacancy occurs, shall, prior to making any report or suggestion, appoint a Sub-Committee, which shall carefully consider the whole matter and advise the General Committee respecting it. In the case of the Theological Institution, the Local Committee may report and recommend names to the General Institution Committee as they do at present.

6. On the presentation of the names by the Committee of the Department for designation or appointment the Conference in its Representative Session shall retain the right to add other names, and shall take at least one ballot, and then if an absolute majority has been secured, and the Conference thinks fit, it may by open vote pass on the result of the first ballot to the Pastoral Session, it being necessary that three names should be sent forward to that Session.

N.B.—In 1913 the Conference resolved to amend the foregoing section of the Standing Orders by adding the following words:

After the first vote has been taken it shall be open to any member of the Representative Session to move that the Standing Order which requires three names to be submitted to the Pastoral Session for Designation or Appointment to Departmental Offices be suspended in a particular case.

Should the motion for suspension of the Standing Order be carried in full Conference by a two-thirds majority, the Representative Session may submit either one name or two as may be deemed expedient. In all

such cases the Pastoral Session shall have the right to nominate an additional name, or, if need be, two additional names to bring the number up to three, before proceeding to the ballot.

The nominee or nominees of the Representative Session must always be included in the three on which the final ballot is taken, should the Pastoral Session decide in any given case to increase the number of nominees (1913, pp. 101, 102).

7. In any case of emergency which arises after the close of the Representative Session, the Pastoral Session shall have the right to appoint without a previous nomination. See p. 393.

8. Appointments to Departmental Offices shall be in the first instance, as now, for a period not exceeding six years ; but all reappointments in the future shall be for three years only, and when any reappointment is made the number of votes cast in each case shall be reported.

9. When a ballot is taken, the Committee of Scrutineers shall consist of not less than twenty persons, and shall make all arrangements for the collection and counting of votes (1837, vol. viii., p. 224 ; 1883, p. 183 ; 1886, p. 204 ; 1890, p. 423 ; 1892, p. 312 ; 1906, pp. 369, 370 ; 1911, pp. 92, 93 ; 1913, pp. 101, 102, 389, 390).

Renewal of Reappointments

Subject to the foregoing Regulations, the Conference is at liberty to renew the reappointment to Departmental offices as often as it shall deem necessary (1836, vol. viii., p. 84).

Discussion on Nominations

There shall be no prohibition of discussion on the

nominations for election to Departmental Offices (1887, p. 194).

Ministers acting under the Direction of a Department

Ministers appointed to act under the direction of a Departmental Committee shall, if reappointment be desired by the Committee, be annually invited by that Committee and dealt with by the Conference as in the case of Ministers in Circuits and Missions (1906, p. 336). See p. 167.

Relation to District Synods

It is expedient that when Ministers are appointed to work together as Colleagues in any Department, they should be members of the same District Synod; but that any Minister appointed to a Department who has not a Colleague should be a member of the District in which he resides (1882, p. 224).

Assessment for Children's Fund

N.B.—Ministers in Departments and those without Pastoral charge are at present assessed for the Maintenance Section of the Children's Fund at £20 each; to be paid as directed in the *Minutes* (1914, p. 22).

Auxiliary Fund

All the Ministers, including Preachers on Trial, not appointed as Ministers of Circuits, but separated or engaged to other service, shall have a sum paid for them [to the Treasurers of the Auxiliary Fund] by the Department of service to which they are appointed (1876, vol. xx., p. 211).

N.B.—This Regulation does not refer to Ministers without Pastoral charge.

VIII. FOREIGN MISSIONARIES

N.B.—1. For Revised Rules and Regulations of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society adopted by the Conference of 1884 see *Minutes*, 1885, pp. 343-7.

Some of these Regulations have been further revised. In this section of the *Summary* such further revisions are recognized.

2. In 1912 the Conference resolved that the general lines of Organization and Administration affecting the Foreign Missionary Work should be printed in a *Book of Regulations*, and issued officially to all members of the Committee and Council and all Missionaries on the Field (1912, p. 660). This has been done. The book, which is entitled *Regulations Relating to Missionaries*, was published in 1914. To it the following 'Note' is prefixed: 'The Missionary Committee necessarily reserves to itself the right to amend or alter any of these Regulations as may from time to time be advisable or necessary' (*Book of Regulations*, p. v.). In this section of the *Summary* the principal Rules of the Missionary Society are included with the Regulations passed by the Conference. See p. 410.

General Committee

A Committee shall be annually appointed by the Conference, in accordance with such Regulations for its Constitution as from time to time may be in force. To this Committee shall be entrusted the superintendence of the collection and disbursement of all moneys raised for the purposes of the Society, and also the general management of the Missions, subject to the general Rules and Usages of the Connexion, including the sale

or other disposition of the properties from time to time acquired by and held by or on behalf of the said Society (1885, p. 343 ; 1905, p. 12).

MANAGEMENT OF THE SOCIETY

N.B.—In 1912 the Conference adopted a Report on the Management of the Society which had been prepared after minute examination of the whole question. The Report presented a complete Scheme of Organization, 'without distinguishing between arrangements already existing and new recommendations.' The full Report will be found in the *Minutes* for 1912, pp. 648-60.

The following Resolutions, passed by the Conference, give effect to the recommendations of the Report. \

Changes in Staff

1. The Conference resolves that the office of Ministerial Deputy Treasurer be discontinued.

2. For the fuller organization of Medical Missions it is absolutely necessary that a duly qualified member of the medical profession should be appointed to act under the General Committee as Secretary of the Medical Board, and the Conference resolves that such an appointment be sanctioned.

3. With a view to securing more volunteers for Missionary service from Students in the Universities and Colleges of the United Kingdom, and also closer contact with the Student Volunteer Movement, the Conference resolves that a University Graduate shall be appointed to work among Students under the direction of the General Committee as soon as, in the opinion of that Committee, the financial position of the Missionary Society renders it possible. This man may be a Probationer, Minister,

or a Layman ; and a new appointment shall be made every two or three years (1912, p. 17).

The Secretaries

The Conference resolves that there be four Ministerial Secretaries (1912, p. 17).

Duties of Secretaries

The Conference approves the following rearrangement of duties among the four Secretaries, it being understood that all matters are brought before the Officers' Meeting :

(a) (1) To Secretary A : Organization at the Home Base with a view to the development of the missionary spirit in the Church, the Laymen's Missionary Movement, work among Students and among young people generally ; together with the oversight of and correspondence with West Africa.

(2) To Secretary B : The oversight of and correspondence with South Africa and the Western Hemisphere.

(3) To Secretary C : The oversight of and correspondence with China and Europe.

(4) To Secretary D : The oversight of and correspondence with India and Ceylon.

(b) That each Secretary shall visit some part of the field allocated to him at least once in every four years.

(c) That in the General Committee each Secretary shall introduce the business arising from his own field or fields.

(d) That ordinarily each Secretary shall represent his own field or fields in all outside Missionary movements of a co-operative character.

The following duties shall be assigned to individual Secretaries on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, it being understood that all matters are brought before the Officers' Meeting :

(a) To convene the General Committee, prepare and send in advance the Agenda, and be responsible for the Minutes : also to act in the same capacity for such Sectional Committees as are of a general character.

(b) The preliminary drafting of the Budget for submission to the Treasurers, the Officers' Meeting, and Finance and General Committees, also the drafting of the allocation of the Plant Fund.

(c) To be the Secretary of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Trust Association.

(d) The general supervision of the Literature and Press Department.

(e) To be the Secretary of the Candidates' Committee.

(f) To represent the Committee on the Medical Board (1912, pp. 650, 651).

Resolutions Respecting the Secretariat

1. It shall be essential to any nomination made by the Nomination Committee for the office of Missionary Secretary that the Minister nominated shall be able periodically to visit the field of which he is to have oversight.

2. The General Committee shall fix the further duties of each Secretary, and shall make such rearrangements as may be necessary from time to time.

3. In view of the growing responsibility of administering the affairs of the Missionary Society at home and abroad, the Conference shall avoid as far as possible

the appointment of Missionary Secretaries to other duties which involve permanent demands on their time and strength. The Conference is of opinion that the duties of the office are sufficiently exacting to demand the whole time of any Minister appointed to the Secretariat (1912, pp. 17, 18).

**Relation of Secretaries to each other, and the duties of
their Chairman**

1. The four Secretaries shall have equal status, each Secretary being responsible to the General Committee for the specific duties allocated to him.

2. One of the four Secretaries shall be annually appointed Chairman of the Officers' Meeting. This appointment shall be made by the Conference on the nomination of the General Committee at its June meeting. The appointment shall not be made on the ground of seniority, but of fitness in the judgement of the Committee.

3. The Secretary who is Chairman of the Officers' Meeting shall during his term of office :

(1) Preside over the Officers' Meeting, and represent the Society in general matters not allocated to individuals.

(2) Be responsible, in consultation with the Officers, for the internal administration of the Mission House.

(3) Immediately after each General Committee, draft a letter descriptive of its main business, submit it to his co-Secretaries for their approval and signature, and have a copy sent to each of the Society's Missionaries.

4. In the Stations printed in the *Minutes of Conference*, the Pastoral Session of the Conference shall be

requested to append a note stating which Secretary is designated for the year 'Chairman of the Officers' Meeting' (1912, p. 18).

The Honorary Treasurers

1. The Ministerial Treasurership shall be discontinued.

2. There shall be two Honorary Lay Treasurers of the Society.

This change in constitution will necessitate the alteration by Conference of No. VI. in the 'Laws and Regulations' of the Society.

The following shall be Rule VI.:

'Two Treasurers shall be annually appointed by the Conference in accordance with such Connexional Rules as from time to time may be in force.'

The financial arrangements of the Society shall be the responsibility, under the General Committee, of the Treasurers in conjunction with the Finance Committee (1912, pp. 18, 19).

The Officers' Meeting

1. The Officers' Meeting shall consist of the Treasurers and the General Secretaries.

2. It shall be held for mutual consultation between the Officers, an Agenda of the Business being prepared beforehand, and the proceedings being minuted in a book for the use of the Officers only.

3. Each Officer shall bring before the Officers' Meeting all business for which he is responsible in any Committee.

4. The meetings shall be held weekly at a fixed hour, and oftener if necessary.

5. While the Officers' Meeting does not report *formally* to the General Committee, its view on any question may be called for when necessary (1912, p. 19).

The General Committee

1. The General Committee shall consist of the following *ex-officio* members: The President of the Conference, the ex-President of the Conference, the Secretary of the Conference, the two Treasurers and four Secretaries of the Missionary Society, any Honorary Secretary and any Minister specially set apart to the service of the Committee, the Chairman and Secretary of the Medical Board, the General Secretary of Home Missions, the Secretary of the Army and Navy Board, the Secretary of the Sunday School Department; together with fifty members, elected on nomination by the General Committee, and one Minister and one Layman nominated by each District Synod.

2. Every year the General Purposes Committee shall suggest, in harmony with Conference procedure, a list of names of Ministers and Laymen who are considered desirable for nomination by the General Committee, and shall send it out to members of the General Committee in advance of the meeting at which nominations are made to Conference.

3. Half of the members appointed by Conference shall be Ministers and half of them Laymen.

4. The elected members of the General Committee shall be chosen on the basis of ability to serve the Missionary cause and to attend the meetings.

5. An agenda indicating fully the nature of the business shall be sent out to members in advance of each meeting.

6. Each Secretary shall present the business of his own department in the General Committee.

7. In Sectional Committee Minutes all recommendations shall be preceded by a full explanatory preamble, which shall be read before the General Committee is asked to vote thereon.

8. The Chairman of a Sectional Committee shall be given the opportunity of speaking when the Minutes of his Committee are presented.

9. A *précis* of Foreign Correspondence not dealt with in the Sectional Committees shall be read in General Committee.

10. Missionaries at home on furlough shall, when practicable, be asked to address the General Committee on the work of their fields.

11. When recommendations of any Sectional Committee, involving finance, are read in the General Committee, the judgement of the Finance Committee shall be reported (1912, pp. 19, 20).

Missionary Council

1. A Missionary Council shall be formed, consisting of the General Committee and 200 members to be elected by Conference.

2. Of the 200 members to be elected, one Minister and one Layman shall be nominated by each District Foreign Missionary Committee, and the rest by the General Committee.

3. Members shall be nominated for the Council on grounds not necessarily of official position, but of devotion to the Missionary cause and ability to serve its interests ; and, as far as practicable, shall be representa-

tive of geographical areas, and of various sections of workers in the Methodist Church.

4. The Council shall meet at least twice a year—namely, before Conference, to make recommendations to the General Committee with regard to the year's work and the report thereon to Conference ; and also in the autumn to consider the Budget for the coming Missionary year, and to make recommendations to the General Committee (1912, pp. 20, 21).

The Sectional Committees

The following Sectional Committees, on which the General Committee shall have power to place members from outside by co-option, shall be appointed :

1. *Finance*—to which financial proposals shall be referred before they are decided by the General Committee.

2. *Eastern*—embracing the work of the existing Ceylon and India and China Committees.

3. *Western*—embracing the work of the existing Europe and South Africa, and West Indies and West Africa Committees.

4. *Home Organization*.

5. *Medical*.

6. *General Purposes* (in place of the present Staff Committee). Its business shall include :

(1) Nominations for, and general arrangements of, all Sectional Committees, the General Committee, and the Missionary Council.

(2) Arrangements for visitation of the field.

(3) Control of the Office and Warehouse Staff of the Society.

(4) Furlough regulations, and the return of Missionaries after furlough.

(5) Allocation of duties of Secretaries and others.

(6) Arrangements for presentation of business in Conference.

7. *Candidates*—embracing the work of the existing 'Qualification of Lay Candidates' Committee; and also among its other duties:

(1) To consider measures for securing workers, ministerial and lay, for the Foreign Field, and for testing their fitness and qualifications before they are sent out.

(2) To arrange specialized training for specific fields.

(3) To make suggestions to the General Committee on the appointments of Laymen, and also through the General Committee to Conference on the appointments of Ministers, to the Foreign Field.

8. *Literature*—The members of the Literature Committee shall all be also members of the Home Organization Committee (1912, pp. 21, 22).

Procedure of Sectional Committees

1. Laymen, when available and suitable, may be appointed as Chairmen of Sectional Committees, with the responsibility of reporting on their work, when necessary, in the General Committee.

2. Agenda indicating the nature of the business of Sectional Committees shall be sent out in advance of the meetings.

3. It is desirable that the Chairman of a Sectional Committee should make himself familiar with the business on the Agenda in advance of the meeting (1912, p. 22).

THE SOCIETY IN ITS RELATION TO THE FIELD**Authority**

The Conference, in considering the relation between the General Committee and the Missionaries on the field, recognizes that the General Committee has authority to act in all matters pertaining to the foreign field, subject to the 'Rules and Regulations of the Society' (1912, p. 657).

In order, however, to promote the development of the work abroad, the Conference resolves :

1. That the General Committee, in consultation with Synods concerned, shall lay down from time to time a definite policy for the Society's work in the various fields.

2. That, while the General Committee cannot delegate executive authority in matters of policy and finance, yet in matters of detailed administration on lines already approved by them, and in accordance with past and present usage, its aim shall be to commit such executive authority to Synods and Local Committees as circumstances may permit.

3. That, while the General Committee must reserve to itself the right to act without reference in cases of special emergency, it shall adopt the principle of full consultation with the field concerned, in questions relating to

- (1) The initiation or abandonment of work.
- (2) The delimitation of Districts.
- (3) General local policy and administration (1912, pp. 22, 23).

Synods

The Conference directs :

1. That it be an instruction to the General Committee to examine and codify, as soon as practicable, the Laws and Regulations relating to District, Provincial, and General Synods, and to District and Provincial Local Committees; and, after such amendment as may be necessary, to issue them with its official imprimatur.

2. That the question of the method of appointment of Chairmen of Synods and General Superintendents be referred for consideration to the General Committee.

3. That where General Synods are constituted they shall be held as a rule once in every five years, the time being subject to the decision of the General Committee after consultation with the Provincial Synods concerned.

4. That all resolutions of Foreign Synods and Local Committees shall be communicated to the General Committee.

5. That while individual Missionaries shall be encouraged to correspond in amplification of Synod or Local Committee recommendations, and in regard to the general work, requests from them shall not be dealt with unless they have the support of a Synod, a Local Committee, or, in the interval between such meetings, of the Chairman and General Superintendent (1912, p. 23).

Office of Chairman and General Superintendent

1. In relation to Missionaries on the field, the Chairman of a District shall have the authority and the responsibility of the Chairman of a Home District, and, in addition, as the representative of the General Committee, shall act as General Superintendent for all matters in his District.

2. The Chairman of a District shall be responsible

to the General Committee for the work of his District (1912, p. 23).

Correspondence

1. Official correspondence shall be regarded as between the General Committee and the Foreign Field.

2. All official correspondence from the House to a particular field, or *vice versa*, shall be through the one Secretary to whom that field is allocated, and he shall represent the General Committee to workers in that field, individually and collectively, and also the workers to the General Committee.

3. The official correspondence of any Secretary—from the House or the Field—shall be accessible to the Treasurers, Chairmen of Committees, and Secretaries of the Society.

4. During the sessions of the General and Sectional Committees the correspondence relating to the business on the Agenda shall be laid on the table, and any member of these Committees may refer to it.

5. In the intervals between meetings the correspondence relating to the business on the Agenda of any Committee—General or Sectional—may be read by members of that Committee by arrangement with the Secretaries.

N.B.—In the above Regulations, it is understood that correspondence on exclusively pastoral questions shall be dealt with in accordance with the usage of Conference (1912, p. 24).

Unity

1. Members of the General Committee and the Missionary Council, other than the Secretaries, shall be encouraged to visit the Foreign Field and get personal and direct acquaintance with its problems and conditions.

When they are at Home on furlough Missionaries shall have access :

(1) To the Missionary Council and General Committee, in which they may speak by permission or request of the Chairman, but not vote, unless they are Chairmen of Foreign Districts.

(2) To the Sectional Committees when invited.

(3) To the Officers of the Society (1912, p. 24).

THE SOCIETY IN RELATION TO THE CHURCH AT HOME

Advocacy

The Conference resolves that the General Committee be requested to deal, as soon as practicable, with the whole question of Missionary advocacy at Home.

Missionary Education

The General Committee shall be requested to give its earnest attention, as soon as practicable, to the whole question of Missionary education at Home (1912, p. 25).

General Matters

The Conference resolves :

1. That the general lines of Organization and Administration shall be printed in a Book of Regulations, and issued officially to all members of the Committee and Council and all Missionaries on the Field.

2. That the Fields allocated to each Secretary shall be indicated in the Annual Report (1912, p. 25).

REGULATIONS RELATING TO MISSIONARIES

Candidates

1. As the [Ministerial] Missionaries who are sent out from this Country to labour under the direction of this

Society are to be Ministers in connexion with the Yearly Conference, and have generally a claim to be recognized as such on their return from Foreign Stations, the selection of Candidates for the Mission Work shall be made in accordance with any Regulations which may be in force from time to time for selection of Candidates for the Home Work (1885, p. 344). See *Candidates from Ireland*, pp. 274, 275.

2. If, in the interval between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the list of accepted Candidates shall be exhausted, and more are urgently wanted, or if a Missionary with special qualifications shall be immediately required, the Committee shall be at liberty to employ other suitable persons, provided always that such persons shall have been previously recommended by their respective Superintendents, and by the Quarterly Meetings of the Circuits to which they belong, and either by the District Synods, or by three neighbouring Superintendents, and shall also have been examined and approved by a Special Committee. But this liberty shall be used by the Committee only in cases of pressing emergency, and then only with the express consent of the President of the Conference for the time being (1885, p. 344).

For *Special Committee* see pp. 400, 406.

Admission of Europeans into the Ministry on Mission Stations

1. European Candidates for the Ministry are from time to time recommended by Missionary Synods.

2. If Candidates so recommended come to this Country, and pass the usual tests, they are dealt with as Candidates for the General Work.

3. Otherwise, they are accepted, if at all, as Candi-

dates for the Ministry only in the country specified in the recommendation ; and they have no claim for an appointment to a Circuit in the Home Work, or to furlough or passage at the expense of the Missionary Society (1896, p. 225).

Candidates and Provincial Synods

In those areas of the Mission Field in which Provincial Synods have been established, the recommendation of the Provincial Synod shall be required :

(i) Before a Candidate for the Ministry from a District within the Provincial area is received on Trial by Conference ;

(ii) Before a Candidate for admission into Full Connexion from a District within the Provincial area is received into Full Connexion with the Conference (*Journal*, 1905 ; *Minutes*, 1906, pp. 15, 16).

Students

See pp. 284, 285, 299.

Cost of Training Missionaries

See p. 292.

Appointment

1. The Ministerial Missionary receives his appointment at Conference ; or, in cases of emergency, may be called out by the President of the Conference in the course of the year. If, being a Probationer, he is called out before Christmas Day, his years of service date from the preceding Conference ; if after Christmas Day, from the following Conference.

2. The Ministerial Missionary, if a Probationer, is

usually ordained before leaving England ; but such ordination does not exempt him from the usual probation for admission into Full Connexion, nor from Probationers' examinations.

3. No appointment is confirmed until the Medical Board of the Society has reported on the physical fitness of the Candidate.

4. The Missionary, Ministerial or Lay, unless he goes out by special arrangement for a limited term, is assumed to regard his work as a vocation from which he will not withdraw without urgent reason (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 1, 3, 34).

Ministers Accepted for Service in a Specified Country

Wherever such Ministers are employed, or are proposed to be employed, the Synod concerned shall submit to the Missionary Committee a scheme for their Allowances, etc., covering not only stipend and provision of house, but also furlough and retiring allowances (1907, p. 13).

Native Ministers and the Yearly Conference

1. The Conference declares that, except in the case of Ministers sent out from this Country and duly authorized to return, the admission of Brethren abroad into Full Connexion with the Conference does not carry with it any right to a Circuit in Great Britain, or to attend the meetings of the British Conference (1891, pp. 231, 232).

2. In place of the Question, ' Who are now admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference?' and its answer as heretofore, the entry in the *Journals* and in the *Minutes* shall be in the form following ; viz. :

Q. 1. Who are now admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference ?

A. (1) In Great Britain :

(2) In our Foreign Missions :

(a) Ministers sent out from this Country.

(b) Ministers admitted for service in the countries specified ; viz. :—

(3) In Ireland :

Under Section (2 a) of this Answer shall be entered the names of all Ministers who have been sent out by the Missionary Committee, and have a claim, on their return, to enter the Home Work.

Under Section (2 b) shall be entered the names of all Ministers, whether Native or otherwise, who have been called into the work on Foreign Stations. These have no claim to any appointment in this Country, or to any payments from Home Funds (see also *Minutes*, 1891, pp. 231, 232).

N.B.—If any Minister who has been admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference for service in a specified Country shall be appointed to service in another Country, his Full Connexion with the Conference shall not be disturbed thereby (1895, pp. 217, 218).

Status of Ministers in the West Indies and other Specified Countries

1. Ministers wishing to be transferred to the work at Home shall submit their application to the Committee appointed by the Conference to consider applications from Ministers of other Churches, and shall submit themselves to such examination as that Committee may determine. The Conference, while not prepared to recognize the claim for Full Status of men who have been received for work in specified Countries, nor,

on the other hand, seeking to exclude their applications, deems it undesirable to lay down any general principles in regard to such applications, but recommends that the existing usage of the Conference should be continued and each case considered on its merits.

2. Inasmuch as this new class of applications involves questions of finance that affect the Missionary Society in addition to those laid down in the Memorandum of Agreement, the Conference is of the opinion that any case recommended should be submitted for the opinion of the Missionary Society before being finally settled.

3. The Conference further resolves that whenever it is recommended that an Applicant shall receive Full Status the Conference shall adhere to its Rule that the financial payments shall be paid through the Missionary Committee when the Full Status is granted, and not delayed until the Minister makes application to return to the Home Work.

N.B.—Applications from Ministers who are Natives of Foreign Countries shall under no circumstances be considered (1908, p. 356 ; 1913, pp. 382, 383).

Ministers under Affiliated Conferences

See pp. 641, 642.

Lay Agents

In addition to Ministers in connexion with the Yearly Conference, the Missionary Committee is empowered to employ in the Foreign Field such Lay Agents as it shall, after carefully testing, judge suitable for its work (1898, p. 261).

Lay Missionaries

For general Missionary work, evangelistic, pastoral, and administrative, the Society ordinarily employs Ministerial Missionaries; when Lay Missionaries are sent out it is usually for some special department of work—medical, educational, industrial, etc. Lay Missionaries are accepted by the General Committee under the following Regulations:

1. Candidates for service as Lay Missionaries under the Society will ordinarily be expected to be Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church. Members of other Churches may be accepted, if they are prepared as Missionaries to unite in Methodist fellowship and to accept heartily the Doctrines and Discipline of Methodism.

2. References as to moral and religious character will be required.

3. Candidates should be actuated by genuine missionary motives, and be in earnest sympathy with the aims and methods of the Missionary Society. They will ordinarily be expected to have shown active interest in Christian work at Home, and to have had experience in some branch of it.

4. They must satisfy the General Committee that they have such acquaintance with Scripture and such knowledge of Christian Doctrine as are necessary for the work to which they seek to be appointed, and also such technical or professional attainments as that work may require.

5. They must be approved by the Medical Board as regards physical fitness.

6. If accepted, they will be regarded as on probation for at least the first two years of their service on the Field.

7. They will be required, unless specially exempted, to follow the Curriculum of Vernacular Study laid down for the Missionaries on the Field to which they are sent, and to take the usual Examinations.

The following additional Rules relate to Candidates offering as Medical Missionaries :

(i) The Candidate must be a registered medical practitioner.

(ii) He must be approved by the Medical Board of the Society as of competent professional efficiency (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 1-3).

Missionaries on Probation

Every Missionary sent out is regarded, for the first two years, at least, as a Missionary on probation. His Superintendent (or, if he is on a solitary station, the General Superintendent) presents annually, during this probation, a Report to the Local Committee, to be recorded in its Minutes, regarding his promise of fitness for work in the Country. Such Reports relate to health, acquisition of local language, adaptability, etc. After two or more complete years the Local Committee may, by formal vote, recommend that his *Missionary* probation be regarded as ended ; and, on the adoption of that recommendation by the General Committee, he attains full *Missionary* status (*Book of Regulations*, p. 6).

N.B.—The distinction between Missionary probation and probation for the Ministry must be noted.

Probationers for Ministry

1. Missionaries who are Ministers on Trial are examined annually under the direction of the District Synod (or the Provincial Synod where such a body has

been constituted) until they are received into Full Connexion with the Conference. See pp. 524, 525.

2. A Curriculum of Probationers' Examinations for each District is approved by the Pastoral Committee of the Missionary Society. The Curriculum includes, where necessary, study of native languages, religion, customs, etc., as well as Divinity studies.

3. A Trial Sermon preached in English forms part of the final Examination before recommendation for admission into Full Connexion (*Book of Regulations*, p. 14).

4. In Missionary Districts any Probationer who is in charge of a Station, and has responsibility as a Superintendent, shall be allowed to vote [in Foreign Synods], but not on questions affecting ministerial status (1901, p. 13). See pp. 312, 313.

Study of Language

1. Every Missionary, unless exempted by special resolution of the General Committee, must learn the language of the people of the District to which he is appointed.

2. A course of Language Study, covering ordinarily three years, is approved by the General Committee for each language needed by our Missionaries; and the Missionary, whether Probationer or otherwise, is subject to Language Examinations until the Local Committee can report that he has successfully completed the course laid down.

3. In Districts where a paid language teacher is necessary an allowance for such payment is made, under Rules approved by the General Committee, to the Missionary who has not completed his Language course (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 13, 14).

Probationers Returning from the Mission Field

If a Probationer enter upon the Home Work after spending part of his probation on the Foreign Field, the Missionary Secretaries shall furnish the Chairman of the District to which he is appointed with a Report upon each year of the probation which has been spent abroad. This Report shall be laid by the Chairman before the May Synod (1896, p. 229).

Allowances

See *Book of Regulations*, pp. 8-10.

Stations

Ministerial Missionaries are stationed from year to year by the Conference, on the recommendation of the Local Committee, subject always to revision by the General Committee. A Missionary arriving in the District between the meetings of the Local Committee receives his appointment, until the next meeting of that Committee, from the General Superintendent of the District, unless the General Committee has itself fixed his appointment. In case of emergency arising in the intervals of the regular meetings of the Local Committee, the General Superintendent of the District has authority either to summon a special meeting of the Local Committee or himself to transfer a Missionary to another Station, subject always to revision as aforesaid (*Book of Regulations*, p. 7).

Special Appointment to West Indies

In order to secure (a) greater efficiency in the administration of the West Indian Districts, and (b) unity

of policy, especially in view of the training of Ministers, the provision of secondary education, the transfer of Ministers from one District to another, the liquidation of debts, and the need for spiritual and evangelistic advance, a Minister from this Country, specially chosen on account of his experience, standing, general repute and ability, shall be appointed to reside in Jamaica, but without pastoral charge, as the Representative of the Missionary Society for the whole of the West Indies (1913, p. 12).

Chairmen and General Superintendents

N.B.—The following list of the duties of Chairmen of Districts and General Superintendents summarizes the references to those duties which are found in the *Book of Regulations relating to Missionaries*.

1. The Chairman and General Superintendent of the District is the Agent and Representative of the General Committee, and is responsible to that Committee and to the Conference for the due administration of Discipline, and the proper working of our organization in the District over which he presides (p. 21).

2. The General Superintendent, who is responsible to the General Committee for all the work of the District, has authority to intervene in the administration of any Station, subject always to appeal to the General Committee (p. 7). See *Summary*, p. 397.

3. In the intervals between the meetings of the Local Committee, the General Superintendent has authority, in case of emergency, to exercise any of the powers of the Local Committee (p. 21).

4. A Lay Missionary desiring to withdraw from work under the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society is

required to give at least six months' notice of his intention to the General Committee, through the Local Committee or the General Superintendent of the District (p. 34).

5. When it is proposed to dispense with the services of a Lay Missionary, except for misconduct, six months' notice shall ordinarily be given him by the General Committee, through the General Superintendent of the District, or pay in lieu of notice (pp. 34, 35).

6. For investigation of 'a serious charge' against a Lay Missionary see *Summary*, p. 429.

N.B.—The Chairman and General Superintendent has authority, if he judges it necessary, to suspend a Missionary, Ministerial or Lay, pending the decision regarding him of the Conference or the General Committee (p. 8). For Trial of Ministerial Missionaries see *Summary*, pp. 519, 520.

7. For power to appoint Ministerial Missionaries arriving in the District between the meetings of the Local Committee see *Summary*, p. 419.

8. For power to transfer a Ministerial Missionary to another Station in a case of emergency arising in the intervals of the regular meetings of the Local Committee see *Summary*, p. 419.

9. A Missionary desiring to leave his Circuit on journeys not authorized by the General or Local Committee must have the sanction of the General Superintendent (p. 21).

10. For Reports on Missionaries on Probation appointed to Solitary Stations see *Summary*, p. 417.

11. Missionaries' Stipends and fixed allowances are payable quarterly by the General Superintendent (p. 10).

12. On the Field, the General Superintendent of the

District and the Local Committee have responsibilities of supervision in the matter of the physical fitness of Missionaries. The Missionary is furnished on appointment with a Medical History Sheet, which the General Superintendent of the District inspects annually to see that it is duly filled up (p. 11).

13. In Districts where visits to Hill Stations, etc., are necessary for the sake of health, Rules regarding the frequency and duration of such visits, and the amount of Grant-in-aid toward travelling and rent, are approved for the several Districts by the General Committee; and the Local Committee, or the General Superintendent of the District, has authority to sanction visits under these Rules. Protracted absence from the Station, except according to these Rules, requires the sanction in each case of the General Committee (p. 13).

14. Absence from the District for the sake of health, except under the Furlough Rules, or approved Rules for visiting the Hills, etc., is only sanctioned by the General Committee on Medical Certificate. The prescribed Certificate has two forms, the one certifying that such absence is desirable, the other that it is absolutely necessary. The former is to be forwarded by the Missionary desiring leave, through the General Superintendent, to the General Committee, and its sanction awaited; in the case of the latter the General Superintendent is authorized, if necessary, to anticipate the Committee's sanction and grant immediate leave. But the latter form of Certificate requires, if possible, the signature of two independent doctors (p. 26).

N.B.—In the case of a married Missionary who desires leave on other grounds than failure of health, the application should be made to the General Committee

through the General Superintendent of the District if the Missionary applying is on the Field. For particulars of such applications see *Book of Regulations*, p. 27.

15. When during any term of service a Missionary desires leave to visit the United Kingdom on private affairs, application should be made through the Local Committee or the General Superintendent. The granting of such leave is always subject to satisfactory arrangements being made for carrying on his work during his absence. The General Committee deals with each application on its merits, both as regards the granting of leave and the length of leave granted (pp. 24, 25).

16. When a journey Home is sanctioned, the General Superintendent takes passage by such route and line, and such class, as the General Committee may from time to time authorize for the several Fields. A Missionary desiring to travel by a route, or in a manner, involving increased expense must himself be prepared to meet the extra expense (p. 27). For particulars relating to the Homeward voyage see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 27-9.

N.B.—Travelling expenses to the port of embarkation and embarkation expenses are paid through the General Superintendent (p. 28).

For Regulation concerning Missionaries who return Home without leave see *Summary*, pp. 430, 434.

17. No Missionary may apply to the Committee of the Women's Auxiliary for the appointment of a Lady Missionary except through the Local Committee or the General Superintendent of the District; and the Local Committee or the General Superintendent, before forwarding such application, must submit for the approval of the General Committee the arrangements proposed for

the Lady Missionary's accommodation and for provision for her work (p. 19).

N.B.—The Missionaries of the Women's Auxiliary are placed by its Committee under the supervision of the Superintendent on whose Station they labour, subject to certain provisions which will be found in the *Book of Regulations*, p. 19. Among them is the following:

In case of serious difference of opinion between the Lady Missionary and the Superintendent, she may refer the matter to the General Superintendent, and, if she so desires, to the Local Committee, 'to whose authority she is amenable until communication can be had with the Women's Auxiliary Committee.' The closing words of this paragraph, in inverted commas, are quoted from the *Regulations* of the Women's Auxiliary for its Women Workers.

18. The Chairman is required to send, not later than September in each year, an estimate of the Allowances required for European Agency in the succeeding year, given in detail for each Missionary (p. 37).

19. The General Superintendent of the District is alone authorized to draw bills on the General Committee (p. 21).

N.B.—Respecting Finance, the *Book of Regulations* should be consulted, particularly pp. 4, 8-10, 21-3, 37-42.

20. In Districts where the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Association is not recognized in law, property shall be vested in the Chairman and General Superintendent of the District, as such, on behalf of the General Committee (p. 14).

N.B.—For arrangement in cases where this cannot be done see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 14, 15.

21. All Deeds are to be deposited at District Head Quarters in custody of the General Superintendent, a copy of the Deed being kept, when necessary, in the Circuit to which it relates (p. 15).

22. For Regulation concerning Methodist Soldiers and Seamen see *Summary*, pp. 389, 390.

Superintendents

N.B.—The following particulars relating to Superintendents are selected from the *Book of Regulations relating to Missionaries*.

1. Where two or more Ministers are appointed to one Station or Institution, one of them receives such authority in relation to the other or others as the Superintendent in a Home Circuit possesses in relation to his Colleagues. But the General Superintendent, who is responsible to the General Committee for all the work of the District, has authority to intervene in the administration of any Station, subject always to appeal to the General Committee (p. 7).

2. Every Superintendent of a Circuit or an Institution shall keep such accounts as may be directed by the Local Committee or the Synod, and shall present them annually for audit. All sums received for his work, from whatever source, and all sums expended on any part of his work, shall be included in such accounts. The exact position of all accounts must be reported annually to the General Committee (p. 21).

3. The Superintendent of a Circuit or an Institution is entitled to draw from the General Superintendent, during each quarter, one-fourth of the Grant for Native Agency and Schools allotted to him by the Local Committee or Synod. Property Grants from the General

Committee, and other special Grants, are disbursed by the General Superintendent as occasion requires (pp. 21, 22).

4. The General Superintendent has a Mission Account current with each Superintendent of a Circuit or Institution. He may, if he judge it necessary, permit an overdraft in this account in the course of the year ; but the account must be balanced annually immediately after the meeting of the Local Committee, and any debit balance made a first charge on the Grant to the Superintendent for the coming year (p. 22).

5. When a Superintendent hands over charge to his successor, a balance-sheet signed by them both, and countersigned by the General Superintendent of the District, shall be filed in the records of the Circuit or Institution. Wherever practicable a Missionary shall *personally* hand over the work to his successor (p. 22).

6. Any Superintendent desiring, in the intervals of the Local Committee or Synod, to initiate new work or employ additional workers (from whatever resources), or to abandon existing work or reduce the existing staff of workers, must have the approval of the General Superintendent and the sanction of the General Committee.

7. Any application to the General Committee for a special Grant or for increase of ordinary Grants must be made through the General Superintendent (p. 22).

N.B.—For Regulations of the General Committee in regard to Banking Accounts, Deposits, and Investments, see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 22, 23.

8. When subscribers at Home desire that their contributions to the General Fund shall be applied to the support of a specific worker or piece of work, the General

Committee allots a suitable worker or piece of work maintained by its General Fund to this subscriber or group of subscribers, and notifies the Missionary in charge accordingly. When a Missionary is so notified it becomes his duty to establish and maintain such touch between the worker or work allocated and the subscriber or group of subscribers as is usually maintained in the case of special Contributions (pp. 17, 18). For Special Contributions see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 15-18.

9. A Superintendent, in handing over charge to his successor, must furnish a list of any workers, places, children, etc., supported by Special Contributions, or as in the foregoing paragraph. The list should in each case give the name and address of the person with whom correspondence regarding the supported worker, etc., is to be maintained, and should indicate at what intervals letters are to be sent (p. 18).

10. The Missionaries of the Women's Auxiliary are placed by its Committee under the supervision of the Superintendent on whose station they labour, subject to the provisos which are stated in the *Book of Regulations*, p. 19. See also *Summary*, p. 424.

11. The receipt of Grants from or through the Women's Auxiliary imposes the following obligations upon the Local Committee and the Superintendent of Stations to which the Grants are made: (i) The Local Committee is expected to provide and maintain buildings suitable for the accommodation of the Lady Missionary. See *Book of Regulations*, p. 19. (ii) The returns required by the Women's Auxiliary should be forwarded annually to the Foreign Secretary of the Women's Auxiliary to reach her not later than March 7. (iii) The Superin-

tendent, on leaving his Station, should furnish his successor with a complete statement of the Grants regularly received from or through the Women's Auxiliary, and of conditions as to correspondence, etc., attaching to them (p. 20).

District Synods and Local Committees

1. All Ministerial Missionaries are members both of the District Synod and of the Local Committee. All Lay Missionaries are members of the Local Committee; and such of them as may from time to time be approved by the General Committee are members of the District Synod also, except during the transaction of business relating exclusively to Ministers. But no Missionary, Ministerial or Lay, has a vote in the Local Committee until his Missionary probation is complete, unless he is in charge of a Station, and has responsibilities as a Superintendent; and no Minister has a vote in the District Synod until his Ministerial probation is complete, unless he is similarly in charge of a Station. Even if in charge of a Station, a Minister on probation has no vote in the District Synod on questions affecting Ministerial status (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 6, 7). See *Summary*, p. 418.

2. The character, conduct, etc., of Ministerial Missionaries are the subject of annual inquiry in the District Synod, as in the case of Ministers at Home. Similar inquiries regarding Lay Missionaries are made annually in the Local Committee. The attendance of the Ministerial Missionary at the District Synod and the Local Committee and of the Lay Missionary at the Local Committee, is compulsory, unless a dispensation is granted by the Synod or the Local Committee, as the

case may be (*Book of Regulations*, p. 8).. See *Summary*, pp. 454-56.

3. If a serious charge is made against a Lay Missionary in the intervals between the meetings of the Local Committee, the General Superintendent is authorized to investigate it by means of a Court constituted on the lines of a Minor District Synod, of which Laymen shall be members wherever possible. The findings of this Court, together with the evidence laid before it, shall be communicated to the General Committee, whose decision is final. The Chairman and General Superintendent has authority, if he judges it necessary, to suspend a Missionary, Ministerial or Lay, pending the decision regarding him of the Conference or the General Committee (*Book of Regulations*, p. 8). See *Summary*, p. 514.

4. A Ministerial Missionary desiring to return to the Home Work should apply for permission through the Local Committee, stating the reasons which prompt his application (*Book of Regulations*, p. 34).

5. The General Committee may at any time, and for any reason which it may deem sufficient, direct a Ministerial Missionary to return to England (*Book of Regulations*, p. 34).

For Reports on Medical Work see *Summary*, p. 430.

Retirement from the Field

See *Book of Regulations*, pp. 34-6.

Retirement on ground of health will ordinarily be sanctioned only after report of the Medical Board, following upon examination by one of the Society's Medical Examiners in Great Britain (*Book of Regulations*, p. 35).

For Financial arrangements on retirement see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 35, 36.

Medical Missionaries

A Medical Missionary in consultation with his Colleague or Colleagues is responsible for the Medical Work of his Station. The United Medical Staff of any District shall be a Medical Council for that District on all professional matters, should necessity for consultation arise. The Medical, as all the other, work of a District shall be annually reported upon in the Local Committee, but professional questions shall be decided by medical men alone. The Ministers stationed where there is a Mission Hospital shall have free access to the same for spiritual work, subject always to the arrangements of the doctor in charge (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 7, 8).

Furloughs

See *Book of Regulations*, pp. 24-33.

1. Whilst the present Rule shall be maintained that no Missionary shall at any time return without the sanction of the Committee, yet every application shall be decided upon its own merits. See *Summary*, p. 434.

2. In the same way every application for furlough shall be dealt with on its own merits; only providing that after seven years' continuous service each Missionary shall have a claim to a twelve months' furlough (1885, p. 193).

N.B.—Missionaries in the Transvaal are entitled to twelve months' furlough after each term of eight complete years' service on the Field. The term of service entitling to twelve months' furlough in Honduras and British Guiana is six years. There is a special pro-

vision in the case of West Africa. See *Book of Regulations*, pp. 25, 26.

3. A Missionary visiting the United Kingdom on medical certificate must as early as possible undergo examination by one of the Society's Medical Examiners; and on reporting his arrival to the Mission House he will be instructed which Medical Examiner he is to visit. He is required carefully to observe the instructions of the Medical Examiner for the restoration of his health; and shall undergo such further examination as the Medical Board may direct before returning to the Field.

N.B.—The health of all Missionaries on furlough is similarly under the supervision of the Medical Board (*Book of Regulations*, p. 29).

Missionaries on Furlough and the General Committee

1. The Ministerial Missionary, while on furlough, is under the disciplinary supervision of the Missionary Committee of Discipline, and the Lay Missionary under that of the General Committee (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 32, 33).

2. Chairmen of Foreign Districts who may be in England on furlough at the time of holding any meeting of the General Committee shall receive notice of such meeting, and be entitled to attend and vote thereat.

3. Other Missionaries on furlough in England shall also receive notice of meetings of the General Committee, and be at liberty to attend, but not to vote.

4. When convenient, Missionaries visiting England, unless under Discipline, shall be introduced to the General Committee at an early date after their arrival, and invited to make any statement they may think fit concerning their work abroad (1889, p. 213). See p. 404.

N.B.—Every Missionary on furlough is entitled, if he so desires, to an opportunity of addressing the Committee of the Field from which he has come, on matters relating to his work, or that of his District ; and the Secretary in charge of the Field will arrange such opportunity on application. See *Book of Regulations*, p. 33. See also *Summary*, p. 410.

Discipline

All our Rules of Discipline respecting the Admission and Exclusion of Members, holding Lovefeasts, etc., shall be strictly enforced, as in Europe ; and the authority of the Superintendent, in all these things, shall be the same in every place (1800, vol. ii., p. 56).

Trial of Missionaries

The trial of any Missionary who may at any time be accused of misconduct or of any departure from the Doctrines and Discipline of the Connexion, shall in all ordinary cases be left with the District Synod to which he may belong, according to the General Rules and Usages of the Methodist Conference. But the Conference may at any time recall any Missionary for any reason which it may deem sufficient ; and in the intervals between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the Committee in London shall possess and may exercise a similar power of recall, and of putting any Missionary so recalled upon his trial, either at the ensuing Conference, or, in a case requiring immediate decision, before a Special Committee (1885, p. 345).

Special Committee

The Special Committee to which reference is made in the foregoing Regulations shall consist of the Ministerial

Officers and members of the Missionary Committee, together with three Ministers from each London District, who shall be annually appointed by the Conference. The President of the Conference for the time being, or in his absence an Ex-President, shall preside at the meetings of this Committee (1885, p. 345).

See *Courts of Superior Jurisdiction*, pp. 522-24.

Disciplinary Inquiries concerning Ministers Serving Abroad

If in the case of a Minister stationed under a Foreign Synod, disciplinary inquiry is called for in regard to conduct alleged to have occurred in Great Britain or Ireland, the Missionary Committee of Discipline shall be empowered to institute such inquiry and report to the Conference (1909, pp. 353, 384).

Missionaries not to Follow Trades

No Missionary is permitted to follow a trade or profession for personal profit (*Book of Regulations*, p. 21). See *Summary*, p. 367.

Property

1. Changes in property, whether by erection, purchase, enlargement, demolition, or sale, require the written sanction of the General Committee before they are undertaken. This Rule relates not merely to expenditure toward which a Grant is sought from the General Committee, but to all property transactions except such outlay on current repairs as is met out of the General Committee's Annual Grant.

2. All proceeds of sales of property are to be remitted forthwith to the General Committee (*Book of Regulations*, p. 15).

N.B.—For investment of Trust Property see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 14, 15.

Missionaries Returning Home without Leave

Every Missionary who shall, in future, return Home without the consent of the Missionary Committee, except in case of extreme danger through sickness, shall be considered as having thereby excluded himself from our Connexion (1825, vol. vi., p. 53).

Transfers between the Foreign and Home Work

N.B.—The Conference annually appoints a Committee, called the Designation Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, the Secretary of the Probationers' Examination Committee, and twenty other Ministers; five of whom are chosen by the Home Mission, the Foreign Missionary, and the Theological Institution Committees respectively; one by the staff of each College from among themselves; and one by the Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly. The Secretary of the Conference is the Convener of the Committee. This Committee sits prior to the session of the Conference. Among other subjects it considers and reports upon all cases of proposed transfer between the Foreign and the Home Work. See pp. 644-46.

Cost of Training Missionaries

See pp. 291, 292.

Cost of Transfers between Foreign and Home Work

The Conference resolves:

1. The present financial arrangements between the Foreign Missionary Society and the Auxiliary Fund, and

the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children, in respect of Ministers returning to the Home Work, are regarded as satisfactory, and shall be continued. See 1853, vol. xii., p. 335.

2. The payment to be made by the Missionary Society to the Home Mission Fund for every Minister transferred from the Foreign to the Home work shall be £40 for every year of probation spent abroad instead of £55, the sum hitherto paid; the same rule to apply when a Minister is transferred from the Home to the Foreign work: careful record shall be kept of the cost to the Home Mission Fund of Ministers coming into the Home from the Foreign work (1899, p. 348).

For arrangements in case of Transfers of Ministers in Full Connexion with the Irish Conference to the Foreign Work see *Minutes*, 1886, pp. 211-13.

Interchange of Ministers between the Channel Islands District and the French Conference

1. The number of exchanges in any one year between the French and English Conference shall not exceed two, unless the President of the English Conference, in urgent circumstances, gives special consent.

(i.) When Ministers belonging to the French Conference return from the Channel Islands to French Conference Circuits, there shall be paid to the French Conference, as compensation, a sum of £25 4s. for each Child born during the appointment of the father to the Channel Islands, being an amount equal to four years' allowance.

(ii.) French Ministers appointed to Circuits in the Channel Islands shall receive, during their stay in the Channel Islands, for Children of the proper school age,

the same Grant for Education paid to Ministers of the English Conference.

2. In future, when a French Minister who has served in the Channel Islands becomes a Supernumerary, there shall be paid, during each year of his Supernumeraryship, from the Auxiliary Fund to the French Auxiliary Fund, the sum of £1 per year for each year of active Circuit work, from the Conference of 1884, in the Channel Islands, and one half of this sum in the case of a Widow.

3. When a Minister returns to the French Conference, as a married man, who has served part of his probation in the Channel Islands, there shall be paid to the French Conference a sum equal to £20 for each year of such probation spent in the Channel Islands. This amount shall be a charge upon the Channel Islands Circuit or Circuits in which the said Minister has been stationed, and the Home Mission Fund will be responsible for the payment.

N.B.—When a married Minister is received into the Channel Islands District in exchange for a Minister returning to the work in France, Rule 3 shall not apply (1884, pp. 225, 226).

4. The Conference authorizes the Chairman of the Channel Islands District to attend the French Conference when necessary, to negotiate the exchanges between the French Conference and the French Circuits in the Channel Islands, on condition that the expenses be paid by the French Conference. The Conference is, however, strongly of opinion that the best mode of supplying the French Circuits in the Channel Islands is by Ministers who are natives of the Islands, whether they are members of the English or French Conference. It is further

important that all necessary steps should be taken to continue that supply of French-speaking Preachers from the Channel Islands which, in the last hundred years, has furnished more than fifty able Ministers and Missionaries for the work in France, England, and elsewhere ; and that due consideration should be given to any claims for financial help from the Home Mission Fund in the event of Ministers who have been labouring in England or on Missionary Stations, and who are specially suitable for the work in the Channel Islands, being appointed to labour there (1889, pp. 203, 204).

IX. DECEASED MINISTERS

Funeral Expenses

1. Let no more than twelve pounds be allowed in future, from our General Funds, towards the Funeral Expenses of any Preacher (1812, vol. iii., p. 293).

All Allowances for Affliction, in special cases, to Preachers actually stationed in Circuits, and for Funeral Expenses of Preachers so stationed, where such Allowances cannot be provided by the Circuits, shall in future be made chargeable on the Connexional Fund, and must, like all other claims for Extraordinaries, pass through the previous examination of the Annual District Synods, and of the Connexional Fund Committee prior to the Conference (1829, vol. vi., p. 511).

Self-supporting Circuits are urged to avoid, as far as possible, making applications for Grants towards the Afflictions and the Funeral Expenses of their own Ministers (1880, p. 219).

2. In view of the continuous growth of the Connexion and the increasing demands necessarily made upon this

Fund for Connexional purposes, as well as Grants for Afflictions, Funeral Expenses, Supplies, Circuit Traveling, and similar purposes, the Conference reaffirms the old-established Rule that self-supporting Circuits should bear such expenses in respect of their own Ministers without recourse being had to this Fund (1902, p. 53).

3. Funeral Allowances are paid from the Auxiliary Fund for Supernumerary Ministers and for the Widows of Supernumerary Ministers, in cases of need (1896, p. 279). See 1829, vol. vi., pp. 511, 512.

Luggage

N.B.—The removal of the Luggage of a Deceased Minister from his Circuit is considered a Connexional Expense.

Ministers' Widows

See pp. 375, 458, 487, 488.

Whenever a Claimant on the Auxiliary Fund shall cease to be a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, he or she (as the case may be) shall be removed from the list of Claimants (*Journal*, 1845).

Deceased Ministers' Children

See pp. 367, 377.

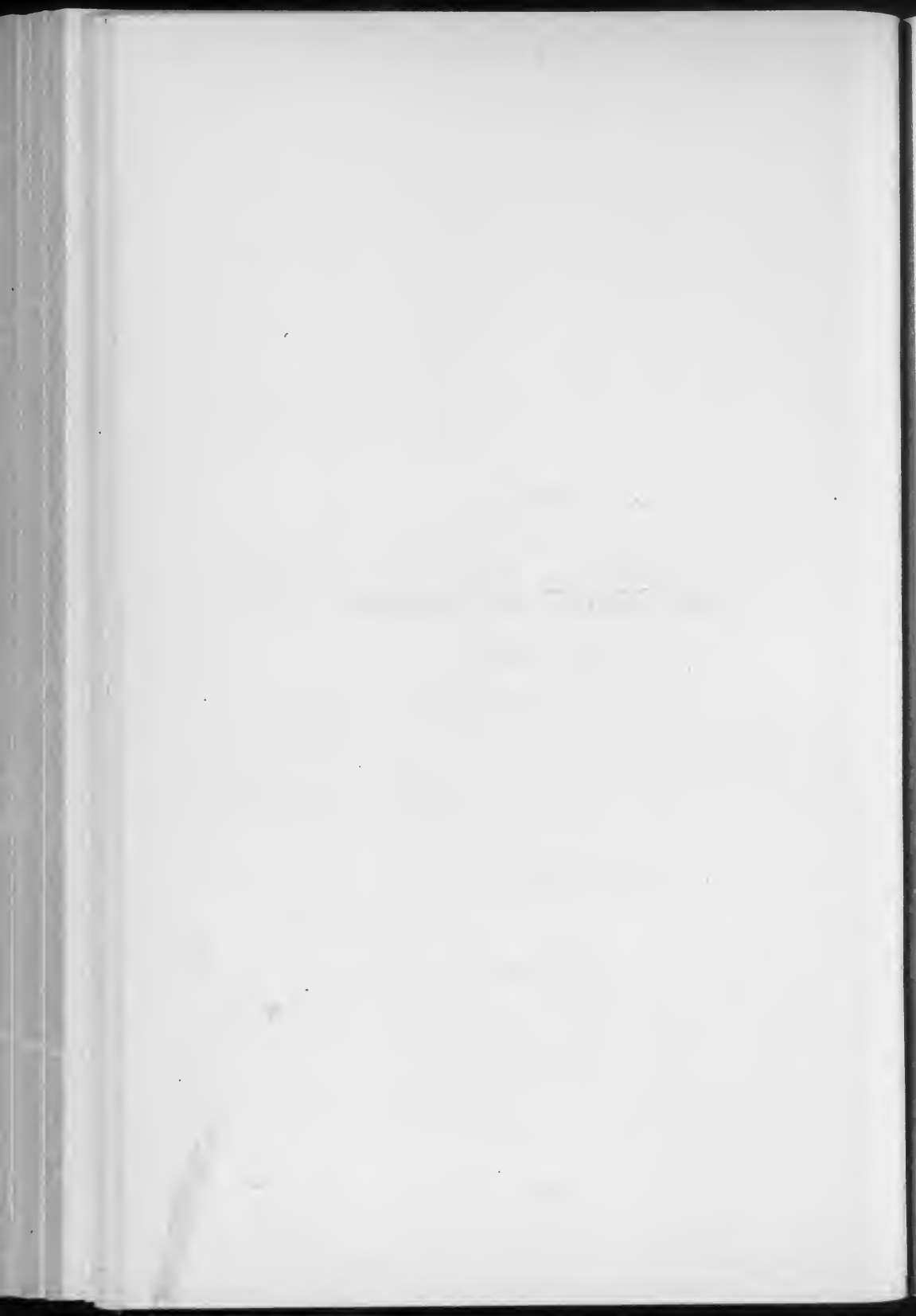
Orphan Children

See pp. 375, 756.

Obituaries

See pp. 457, 458, 648.

DISTRICT SYNODS



I. DISTRICT SYNODS

Change of Title

The Conference is of opinion that the name ' District Committee ' no longer fully represents the relation of these Meetings to the Conference and to the Connexion, and entirely fails to set forth their ecclesiastical character. The Conference therefore resolves that the District Committees shall henceforth be called DISTRICT SYNODS (1892, p. 322).

Origin of Districts

Q. What Regulations are necessary for the preservation of our whole economy, as the Rev. Mr. Wesley left it ?

A. Let the three Kingdoms be divided into Districts (1791, vol. i., p. 249).

Primary Purpose of District Synods

The Assistant [Superintendent] of a Circuit shall have authority to summon the Preachers of his District who are in Full Connexion, on any critical case, which, according to the best of his judgement, merits such an interference. And the said Preachers, or as many of them as can attend, shall assemble at the place and time appointed by the Assistant [Superintendent] aforesaid, and shall form a Committee for the purpose of determining concerning the business upon which they are called. They shall choose a Chairman for the occasion ; and

their decision shall be final till the meeting of the next Conference, when the Chairman of the Committee shall lay the Minutes of their proceedings before the Conference. Provided, nevertheless, that nothing shall be done by any Committee contrary to the Resolutions of the Conference (1791, vol. i., pp. 249, 250).

Lord Lyndhurst on District Synods

In Lord Lyndhurst's Judgement in Dr. Warren's case, the following exposition of the law of 1791 appears :

' In the year 1791, after the death of Mr. Wesley, for the first time Districts throughout the Kingdom were established ; and a provision was made to this effect, that the Assistant of the Circuit shall have the power of convening together the Preachers of the District, upon ' any critical case which might occur ' ; that they should have the power of appointing a Chairman, when so met ; that their decision upon the matter before them should be final, until the next Conference ; that the Chairman should report the proceedings to the Conference ; who, upon that report, should act as the Conference should think proper and just. That is the first law, to which I think it necessary attention should be directed.

' Nothing is said with respect to offences committed by Preachers, nothing is said as to the trial of Preacher ; but still, taking the language, and the spirit, and the scope of this law, and the nature of the Society, can it for a moment be doubted that, if a Preacher had so conducted himself . . . as to introduce discord, and to disturb the harmony of a Society like this, and endanger the Connexion, that that would not be considered as a critical case, justifying the Assistant in calling the Meet-

ing of the Preachers? If so, and they had the power to decide, and their decision was to be final till the next Conference, is it not quite obvious that it might, in many instances, be necessary, under such circumstances, for the purpose of preserving the very existence of such a Society, that the Meeting should have the power of suspending or removing the Preacher, subject always to the ratification or opinion of the Conference?'

N.B.—In Grindrod's *Compendium of the Laws and Regulations of Wesleyan Methodism*, in Appendix III, the decisions of the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Lancelot Shadwell, and of Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, in Dr. Warren's Chancery suit, will be found.

Extension of Authority

The Synods of the Districts shall determine all appeals whatsoever during the intervals of the Conference; and therefore all applications on Society business during the said intervals, which cannot be determined by the Assistants [Superintendents] of the Circuits, shall be made to the Synods only (1791, vol. i., p. 254).

For *Minor District Synod* see pp. 514-16.

District Synods as Courts of Inquiry and Appeal

The Conference declares its unalterable resolution to uphold the authority hitherto vested in its District Synods, as intermediate and subordinate Courts of Inquiry and Appeal, both for the Ministers and the people; whilst, to all parties duly respecting that authority, it still leaves unfettered the right of an ultimate appeal to the Conference (1850, vol. xi., p. 469; 1871, vol. xi., p. 678). See p. 323.

For Lord Lyndhurst's Judgement concerning the disciplinary powers of District Synods see p. 103.

Appointment of Chairman

1. The Chairman of every District shall be chosen by the ballot of the Conference (1797, vol. i., p. 395).

2. In the appointment of Chairmen, the Minister elected shall have a clear majority of the total number of votes cast, and according to the Standing Order relating to elections to Departmental Offices (1886, p. 295). See p. 395.

Substitute for Chairman

In case the Chairman of a District be unable to attend any Meeting of the District Synod, a Chairman for the occasion shall be elected by the Synod from among the Ministers then present (1891, p. 230).

President of the Conference

The President of the Conference shall always be, *ex officio*, Chairman of the District in which he is stationed during the year of his presidency (1812, vol. iii., p. 294).

Manner of Supplying Vacant Chair

In case the Chair of any District be rendered vacant by the death or incapacity of the Chairman, or otherwise, the duties and responsibilities of the Chairman shall, *pro tempore*, devolve upon the President of the Conference for the time being, who shall take steps, either by convening the Ministers of the District, or by correspondence with them, to obtain their suffrages for the Minister among themselves who is deemed by them best qualified to fill the vacant office ; and shall then declare and appoint the

Minister thus selected to be the Chairman of that District till the ensuing Conference (1863, vol. xv., p. 541).

Chairman's Responsibility

The Chairman of each District, in conjunction with his Brethren of the Synod, shall be responsible to the Conference for the execution of the laws, as far as his District is concerned (1797, vol. i., p. 395).

Trial of a Chairman

In case of any complaint arising against the Chairman of a District, in reference either to his personal or his official conduct, the accuser, after duly apprising the Chairman of his intention, shall place his complaint in the hands of the President of the Conference for the time being, who shall have authority (if he deem such a course necessary or expedient) to summon a Meeting, consisting of the President of the Conference, the Secretary of the Conference (who shall act as the Convener of the Meeting), and twelve other Ministers who are in full Connexion with the Conference, of whom six, wherever practicable, shall be chosen from among the Ministers of the District of which the accused is Chairman (each party having the right to challenge any or all of the persons first nominated by the President), and to place the Chairman on his trial before them; when, if the guilt of the accused be proved, the Meeting shall have power to suspend him till the ensuing Conference, or to depose him from the Chair; and in that case the members of the Synod concerned shall, as in the case of the death of a Chairman, elect another Chairman.

The above Resolution shall not apply to the legisla-

tion of 1835 (*Minutes*, vol. vii., p. 581) relative to the trial of an Appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent of a Circuit (1894, p. 217). See p. 324.

Procedure in Case of an Accused Minister

Whenever the Chairman has received any complaint against a Preacher, either from the Preachers or the people, he shall send an exact account of the complaint in writing to the person accused, with the name of the accuser or accusers, before he calls a Meeting of the District Synod to examine into the charge (1792, vol. i., p. 270).

Minor District Synod

See pp. 514-16.

Special District Synod

See pp. 516-18.

Mixed District Synod

See pp. 101-104, 518.

Assistants to Chairmen

As cases may arise for which special provision should be made, the Connexional Fund Committee is empowered to make Grants for Supplies, for limited periods, to assist Chairmen of Districts (1887, p. 259). See p. 158.

Chairmen and Circuits

See pp. 134, 135.

Special Circuit Meeting

See pp. 189-93.

Schedules from Departments

See p. 138.

Supplies

See pp. 157, 158.

Ministers' Meetings and the 'Liverpool Minutes'

See p. 358.

Probationers and 'Resolutions on Pastoral Work'

See p. 367.

Circulars to Ministers

See p. 498.

All Ministers who are members of the Synod shall be summoned thereto by Circular (1897, p. 243 ; 1898, p. 396).

Circulars to Lay Members

The Chairman shall send a Circular to the Lay members of the District Synod, requesting their attendance on the Wednesday, and, if necessary, on the Thursday, in the week of the Annual District Synod ; specifying the business that will be brought forward, and particularly mentioning any subject that may have been specially remitted by the Conference to the consideration of such Synod.

A similar Circular shall be prepared and sent with reference to the Financial District Synod (1870, vol. xviii., p. 402 ; 1871, vol. xviii., p. 652).

Laymen's Day

Chairmen of Districts are at liberty, under special circumstances, to appoint another day than the second

in which the Lay members of the District Synod shall be invited to attend (*Daily Record*, 1873, p. 212 ; *Journal*, 1877).

Names and Addresses of Circuit Representatives

See p. 173.

Collections and Subscriptions for Connexional Funds

See pp. 466, 495.

Grants for Circuit Travelling

The Chairman is responsible for representing, at the Committee on Circuit Travelling at the Conference, the claims of any Minister stationed in his District for whom the Allowance for Circuit Travelling is necessary (*Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, p. 4).

N.B.—Grants for Circuit Travelling are for the past year.

District Minute Books and Connexional Documents

See pp. 496, 497.

Secretary of Synod

N.B.—The Financial Secretary of the District is appointed by the Conference on the nomination of the Chairman ; and he is the Secretary, *ex-officio*, of the September District Synod. In the Annual District Synod, the Secretary is chosen by the vote of the Ministers present. Probationers have no right to vote. See p. 624.

District Synod Committees

The Financial Secretary shall be an *ex-officio* member

of each of the District Synod Committees (1907, p. 108 ; 1908, p. 97).

Minutes of District Synods

See p. 496.

Boundaries of Circuits

See p. 131.

II. ANNUAL DISTRICT SYNOD

The Conference in 1890 directed that the *Order and Form of Business in District Synods*, which had been revised, should be used in the Synods (*Minutes*, 1890, p. 213). The book, again revised in 1903 and 1913, may be obtained from the Wesleyan Conference Office. It contains numerous references to the laws which affect the constitution and business of the Annual and the Financial District Synods. In the *Summary* it is only necessary to repeat the more important Regulations. As to the remainder, a reference to the Official *Order and Form* will be sufficient. See 1913, p. 356.

Constitution of the Pastoral Session

1. The attendance of all the Ministers at their respective Synods (unless they are excused by dispensation of the Synod) is required by the Conference. No Minister shall be permitted subsequently to answering the questions affecting Character to absent himself from any of the Sessions of the Synod without the permission of the Chairman. In consequence of the serious and growing habit of Ministers absenting themselves from attendance

at the Sessions of the Synod or only remaining for a brief period of time, the above Regulations shall be printed in the form summoning the Ministers to the Meetings of the Synod (1904, p. 360).

A record must be made of the names of absentees, with the reasons of their absence, and also whether a Dispensation was granted by the Synod (*Order and Form*, p. 35).

N.B.—The above Regulation refers to attendance at the Annual District Synod. See *Order and Form*, p. 14.

2. Army and Navy Chaplains. See p. 389.

3. The Conference directs that whenever any change of Preachers which it may be necessary to make in the interval of Conference takes place, such Preacher or Preachers shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the Synod into which he or they may be thus removed (1903, p. 360).

4. Supernumeraries. See pp. 372, 373, 375.

N.B.—The expenses incurred by Supernumeraries in attending the May Synod shall be paid by the Financial Secretary, and included in the Synod Assessment on the Circuits for District Expenses (1911, p. 348).

5. The names of any Preachers present who have been appointed by the President to any Circuit in the District since Conference, and those of any Missionaries on Furlough who may attend the Synod, must be recorded (*Order and Form*, p. 36).

6. In the case of any Minister whose name is on the *Journal* only, the Conference shall, in each case, define his position, both in relation to the District Synod, and to the discharge of Ministerial functions (*Journal*, 1872 ; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 515).

Constitution of the Representative Session

N.B.—During the Representative Session, in addition to the Ministers who are members of the Pastoral Session, the following Laymen are members of the Synod.

Laymen

1. The Lay General Treasurers of our Connexional Funds, being Members of Society, shall, during the transaction of all financial business, be members of the District Synod of the District in which they reside (1868, vol. xvii., pp. 391, 392).

2. The District Treasurers of Connexional Funds.

3. The Lay Treasurers and the Honorary Lay Secretary, for the time being, of the Fund for the Relief and Extension of Methodism in Scotland, shall be, *ex officio*, members of the Scotland District Synod during the transaction of its financial and statistical business (1883, p. 208).

4. The Lay Treasurers of the Manchester and Salford Mission shall be members of the Manchester District Synod, when financial and general affairs are under consideration (1875, vol. xix., p. 713).

5. The Circuit Stewards in the District. See pp. 171, 172. For *Substitutes*, see pp. 172, 173.

6. The Lay Representatives elected at the March Quarterly Meeting. See p. 171. For *Substitutes*, see pp. 172, 173.

7. The Lay members of the several District Committees appointed at the preceding September Synod throughout the District.

The District Committees are composed as follows :

(1) The Home Mission and Chapel Committee con-

sists of ten Ministers and ten Laymen. The Chairman of the District and the Financial Secretary are members *ex officio*. Two Secretaries are appointed, one of whom has charge of all schedules and documents relating to Chapel Affairs. Two Ministers and two Laymen retire annually by rotation, but are eligible for re-election, on the vote of four-fifths of the Synod.

The Synod has also power, if deemed desirable, to appoint as Associated members of the Committee five Ministers and five Laymen. The Laymen may be selected from Members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church in the District, whether members of the Synod or otherwise. But this election does not constitute such Laymen members of the Synod (1901, pp. 40-42).

(2) The Foreign Missions Committee consists of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, the District Treasurer, two District Secretaries (one Minister and one Layman), with three other Ministers and four other Laymen. One Layman retires annually by rotation (1887, p. 256 ; 1900, p. 240).

The Synod has power to associate with the members of the Foreign Missions Committee other Ministers and Laymen of known missionary sympathy and experience ; provided always that the Laymen so associated shall not thereby become members of the Synod (1900, p. 240).

(3) The Sunday School Committee consists of the Chairman and Financial Secretary, four other Ministers, and six Laymen, who shall thereby become members of the Synod. One Layman retires annually by rotation (1875, vol. xix., p. 699 ; 1893, p. 309 ; 1907, p. 103 ; 1908, p. 97).

N.B.—The Synod appoints a Ministerial Secretary.

(4) The Temperance Committee consists of the Chair-

man of the District, the Financial Secretary, four other Ministers, and six Laymen, who shall thereby become members of the Synod. One Layman retires annually by rotation (1883, p. 242 ; 1893, p. 309 ; 1902, p. 114 ; 1909, p. 116 ; 1910, p. 99).

Associated members may be added as in the case of other Synod Committees ; provided always that the Laymen so added shall not thereby become members of the Synod. See 1905, p. 118.

(5) The Local Preachers' Committee consists of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, with four other Ministers, and six Local Preachers. If any Local Preachers be chosen who are not already members of the Synod, they become members by this appointment. One Layman retires annually by rotation. The Synod appoints two Secretaries : a Minister and a Layman (1894, p. 315 ; 1895, p. 312 ; 1902, p. 114 ; 1905, p. 511).

The Synod has power to associate with the members of the Local Preachers' Committee other Ministers and Local Preachers interested in the subject ; provided always that the Laymen so associated shall not thereby become members of the Synod (1895, pp. 311, 312 ; 1905, p. 511).

(6) The Class Leaders' Committee consists of the Chairman of the District, the Financial Secretary, four other Ministers, and six Laymen who shall thereby become members of the Synod. One Layman retires annually by rotation.

Associated Members may be added as in the case of the other Synod Committees ; provided always that the Laymen so added shall not thereby become members of the Synod (1903, p. 364 ; 1904, pp. 96, 352 ; 1905, p. 93 ; 1907, p. 100 ; 1908, p. 97).

(7) When, in any District, a Sustentation Fund is formed, under the Connexional Regulations, the Treasurer shall be a Member of Society, shall be elected by the District Synod, and shall be, *ex officio*, a member of that Synod during the transaction of financial and statistical affairs (1875, vol. xix., 716, 717).

N.B.—The Conference declares that no one is eligible for a seat in the District Synod, or upon any Committee thereof, who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1892, p. 309).

Business

See *Order and Form*, pp. 35-97.

Enlargement of District Synods

See pp. 171-73.

I. PASTORAL SESSION

Disciplinary Questions

Let it be clearly understood that every Chairman is required to ask the following questions, distinctly and successively, concerning every Brother. A separate answer to each of these questions is expected to appear in the District Minutes (1812, vol. iii., pp. 292, 293).

Is there any OBJECTION to any Minister or Probationer on the ground of Character, Ability, Doctrine, Discipline ?

(a) Moral and Religious Character.

(b) Ability for our Itinerant Work.

N.B.—1. The reply on these points may be given together, the Brethren answering for one another.

2. Section (b) refers both to Ministerial qualifications and to health, but in the latter sense does not apply to

Supernumeraries or to Ministers about to retire from active service.

(c) Does he believe and preach our Doctrines ?

(d) Has he duly observed and enforced our Discipline?

N.B.—The reply on these points may be given together, each man answering for himself, though others may object or inquire (*Order and Form*, pp. 36, 37).

Before the Question, section (d), is answered, the Chairman shall call attention to the Code of Regulations, printed in the *Order and Form*, which relate to Discipline, and then he shall make careful inquiry. For the Regulations, see *Order and Form*, pp. 37-44.

Observance of Rules

In the examination of Character not only morality and religion, in a general sense, should be kept in view, but a particular inquiry must be made, whether our Rules, as set forth in the *Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline*, are observed by each individual in every Station (1798, vol. i., p. 431 ; 1905, p. 367).

Right of Synods to make Inquiries into Character

1. Not only the Conference, but all its District Synods, whether Ordinary or Special, possess the undoubted right of instituting, in their official and collective character, any inquiry or investigation, which they may deem expedient, into the moral, Christian, or Ministerial conduct of the Preachers under their care, even although no formal or regular accusation may have been previously announced on the part of any individual ; and they have also the authority of coming to such decisions thereupon, as to them may seem most conformable to the laws of the New Testament, and to the Rules and

Usages of our Connexion. In the District Synods, especially, the Chairman has the official right of originating such inquiries, if he think necessary ; because our Rule declares, that ' the Chairman of each District, in conjunction with his Brethren of the Synod, shall be responsible to the Conference for the execution of the laws, as far as his District is concerned.'

2. All Preachers who desire to remain in Ministerial communion with us are considered as retaining that communion on the distinct condition that they hold themselves individually pledged to submit, in a peaceable and Christian spirit, to the usual disciplinary investigations, not only of the Conference, but of all its District Synods, whether Ordinary or Special, when summoned according to our Rules and Usages. And any Preacher who refuses to submit to the friendly examination of the Chairman, and of other Brethren, or to take his trial, regularly and formally before the Preachers either of an Ordinary or of a Special District Synod, when duly required so to do, shall be considered as *ipso facto* incurring the penalty of suspension until the ensuing Conference ; because no possible security can be found even against the worst forms of moral or Ministerial delinquency, if persons charged with any misconduct, and summoned to trial, be allowed to evade with impunity our established modes of investigation (1835, vol. vii., pp. 549, 550). See p. 629.

Ministers under Suspension

A Preacher under suspension has no right to vote on any question in the Conference while his suspension is continued ; nor even to be present in its meetings, without leave, until his own case shall be brought forward (1835, vol. vii., p. 550). See p. 538.

Minutes of Minor District Synods

N.B.—The Minutes of any Minor District Synod held since the Conference, together with any Appeal against its decisions, must be read and carefully considered at the May District Synod, and the judgement of the Synod duly recorded. The Minutes of such Minor District Synod should be inserted, in the order of time, among the proceedings of the District Synod (*Order and Form*, p. 7).

Ministers whose Names are only on the Journal

See p. 450.

Neutrals in Voting

The Conference resolves that in all voting upon cases of Discipline . . . in the District Synods, the number of neutrals shall be recorded (1894, p. 226).

N.B.—Neither in District Synods, nor at the Conference, have Preachers on Trial a right to vote. See pp. 312, 313, 418.

Marriage of Ministers

For the Rules relating to the Marriage of Ministers, see pp. 315, 316.

N.B.—The Steward of the Annuitant Society should be informed of the date of the Marriage, and whether or no it is the first.

Deceased Ministers

N.B.—1. An Obituary must be presented to and approved by the Synod. It should be a Character, not a Biography.

2. The name and date of death must be inserted in the Synod Minutes, and the Secretary must forward the

Obituary to the Convener of the Conference Committee on Obituaries immediately after the Meeting of the Synod (1892, p. 217).

3. When a Minister dies during the year leaving a Widow, the fact should be communicated immediately to the Steward of the Annuitant Society, and to the Treasurer of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund (*Order and Form*, p. 45).

Resignation of Ministers

1. In the event of any Brother determining to withdraw from the Ministry, he shall be expected in the first instance to intimate his resignation to the President (1914, p. 370).

2. The Conference directs that information be given to the General Treasurer of the Theological Institution Fund of the resignation of any Preacher on Trial, or of any Preacher who has not been ten years in Full Work, in order that a list may be kept of those who have not discharged their obligations to the Institution Fund (1889, p. 205).

Supernumeraries

See pp. 317-81.

N.B.—In recommending that a Minister shall become a Supernumerary a Minute is to be made as to whether he has been a Supernumerary before, and, if so, for how many years (*Order and Form*, p. 45).

Reappointment of Supernumeraries in Special Cases

In the case of any Minister who has been made a Supernumerary on the ground of either (1) discipline or (2) difficulty in finding him a Circuit, no District Synod

shall recommend his reappointment unless some Circuit in that District is willing to receive him, or he shall have received an invitation to a Circuit in another District; and no such Minister shall be reappointed to a Circuit unless recommended by the District Synod to which he belongs (1892, p. 218; 1899, p. 246).

Ministers without Pastoral Charge

The Conference resolves that the following Question be inserted in the *Order and Form of Business* of the Pastoral Session of the Annual District Synod: 'Is there any Minister without Pastoral Charge residing in this District, and, if so, does the Synod recommend that the present arrangement be continued?' (1914, p. 370).

Probationers

The District Synods shall be required to declare their judgement, year by year, as to the general fitness for our work in all its details of the Preachers on Trial resident in the several Districts. This judgement shall be furnished to the Committee for the Oversight of Preachers on Trial (1909, p. 358). See p. 312.

Probationers' Examinations

See pp. 305-10.

Probationers' Book Lists

See p. 310.

Candidates for Ordination

See pp. 312, 314, 540.

Before a Probationer is recommended to be received into Full Connexion, the several Reports on his case from

his acceptance as a Candidate, or a summary of them, shall be presented to the Synod together with the judgment upon them of the Committee for the Oversight of Preachers on Trial. This Committee shall have power to recommend to the Synod, either that a Probationer's reception into Full Connexion be deferred, or made conditional upon his satisfying further tests (1909, p. 358). See p. 312.

Preachers on Trial

Whenever it shall be found to be practicable, Probationers shall preach during the District Synods (1889; p. 317).

List of Reserve

N.B.—1. In the Synod the following Questions are asked concerning Candidates for the Ministry who are on the President's List of Reserve: Has any Preacher on the List of Reserve been appointed by the President to any Circuit in this District since the last Conference? Does any Candidate on the President's List of Reserve reside in this District? If so, is he still eligible for our work? (*Order and Form*, p. 55).

2. The Designation Committee has been directed by the Conference to consider and report upon 'the health and general fitness for our work of the men on the President's List of Reserve, and the results of the Examination of accepted Candidates on the List of Reserve who have received appointments'; also to consider the Reports of Superintendents concerning accepted Candidates resident in their Circuit who have not received an appointment (1909, p. 359). See p. 645.

Candidates

See pp. 168-71, 261-80.

N.B.—1. No Candidate is eligible for examination till the Superintendent who recommends him has certified that he has read with care Wesley's *Notes on the New Testament* and the first four volumes of his *Sermons*; also that he has read and 'fully approves the Abridgement of the *Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline*'; and that the Superintendent, and if possible his Colleagues also, have heard him preach. The Candidate must have been approved by the March Quarterly Meeting; and if not resident two years in his present Circuit, special inquiry must be made of his former Superintendent, and the result reported. See p. 91.

2. The Superintendent's recommendation must include the subjects of age, piety, moral Character, ministerial abilities, knowledge and belief of our Doctrines, attachment to our Discipline, health, and freedom from debt, as well as from all other secular incumbrances. Special reference must be made as to whether there has been 'fruit' to the Candidate's preaching. The Character of the Candidate must be signed by the Superintendent. The Superintendent's recommendation need not be entered *in extenso* in the Minutes of the Synod (*Order and Form*, pp. 55, 56).

For Regulation concerning a Candidate who is the son of his Superintendent see p. 267.

For Regulation concerning a Candidate prevented from being present at time of Examination, see pp. 270, 271.

Second Trial Sermon

See p. 271.

Married Candidates

See pp. 268-70.

Special Committee for Examination of Candidates

N.B.—The District Synods of the three London Districts have severally to elect seven Ministers to be members of the Southern Section of the Committee for the Examination of Candidates for the Ministry, and out of these to choose three to be members of the Sub-Committee to read and report upon the Manuscript Sermons of the Candidates. The District Synods of the First and Second London Districts are also to appoint one Examiner of the papers in Theology from among the Ministers elected by them respectively.

The District Synods of the Liverpool, Manchester, and Bolton Districts have severally to elect seven Ministers to be members of the Northern Section of the Committee for the Examination of Candidates for the Ministry ; and out of these to choose three to be members of the Sub-Committee to read and report on the Manuscript Sermons of the Candidates. The District Committees of the Liverpool and Manchester Districts have respectively to appoint one Examiner of the papers in Theology from among the Ministers elected by them respectively (1875, vol. xix., pp. 692, 693 ; 1883, p. 177 ; 1902, pp. 335, 336). See *Order and Form*, pp. 58, 59.

New Laws

No new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed of Ministers only, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synods, when Ministers only are present, and until their Reports, if

any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed.

No new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed both of Ministers and Lay Representatives, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synods when Laymen are present, and until their Reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed.

N.B.—Nothing in this Resolution shall be so construed as to interfere with the rights of the Circuit Quarterly Meetings as set forth in the *Minutes of Conference*, 1797, vol. i., p. 393, and 1852, vol. xii., p. 117 (1877, vol. xx., p. 424). See p. 21.

The Right to Propose Amendments

The Conference finds that our Constitution declares that the Synods are entitled to report on all Provisional Legislation submitted to them, and are also entitled to have their Reports considered by the Conference. The Conference declares that inasmuch as the purpose of the Conference in submitting New Legislation to the Synods is to ascertain their minds on the proposals laid before them, this provision of our Constitution permits them to suggest amendments to such Legislation if they so desire (1912, p. 367). See Report of Committee on Methodist Law and other Matters, *Minutes*, 1912, pp. 618-20.

Reports of Special Committees

The Conference directs that all Reports of Committees referred to the consideration of the District

Synods shall be forwarded to the members of such Synods not later than the first of May in each year (1878, p. 188). See p. 584.

Election of Ministers to attend the Conference in its Representative Session

N.B.—The number allocated to each District is given in the *Minutes* of the preceding Conference. The number of Ministers in this List does not include members of the Legal Conference ; or Representatives of Departments, Chairmen of Districts, Assistant Secretaries of the Conference, or other persons appointed by the previous Conference as members of the Representative Session, who are not members of the Legal Conference. All these are recognized as members of the Conference besides those elected by the District Synod (*Order and Form*, p. 60).

1. The election of Ministers to attend the Conference in its Representative Session shall be made by ballot, after nomination, from among the whole number of Ministers in any District who may express their desire to attend the Conference.

2. The Ministers so elected shall have permission to attend the Conference in its Pastoral Session.

3. The Ministers necessary to complete the number allocated to the District to attend the Conference in its Pastoral Session shall then be elected.

4. In the event of any Minister elected to attend the Conference in its Representative Session offering to ' provide for himself,' his election shall not thereby be rendered void (1877, vol. xx., p. 420 ; 1886, p. 199 ; 1890, p. 324).

Substitutes

In the event of one or more of the Ministers or Lay-

men elected to attend the Conference in its Representative Session being unable to fulfil their appointments, they shall inform the Chairman of the District before the beginning of the Representative Session, and their place or places shall then be taken by the person or persons who received the highest number of votes next to those elected (1895, p. 325, 326).

Ministers attending Conference

See pp. 538-40.

Book Committee

N.B.—Two Ministers from each District, to be chosen by the Synod from among the Ministers authorized to attend either Session of the Conference, are members of the General Book Committee. See 1905, pp. 355, 356 ; 1909, p. 636.

Suggestions to Conference

See p. 495.

II. REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

Time of commencing Financial Business

1. The Financial Business of the District shall commence at ten o'clock in the forenoon of the second day of the May District Synod (1817, vol. iv., p. 343).

2. Chairmen of Districts are at liberty under special circumstances to appoint another day than the second, on which the Lay members shall be invited to attend (*Daily Record*, 1873, p. 212 ; *Journal*, 1877 ; *Order and Form*, p. 63).

Constitution

See pp. 451-54.

Financial State of Circuits

1. The Chairman of every District is directed to make particular inquiries, at each District Synod, into the financial state of all the Circuits in his District, and particularly into the average amount of their weekly and quarterly contributions; that he may be able, if called upon, to report the same to the Conference.

2. Before the deficiencies brought from any Circuit are paid at the District Synod, inquiry shall be made whether such Circuit has complied with our Rules respecting contributions, by raising, on the average, one penny per week, and one shilling per quarter, for each Member. If it appear that the Rules have not been complied with, the payment of the deficiencies of that Circuit shall be suspended, and the case reported to the Conference for their decision (1809, vol. iii., pp. 89, 90). See pp. 23, 41.

Home Mission Fund

Should any considerable deficiency appear in the amount of Collections and Subscriptions received for this Fund, the Chairman shall make strict inquiry into the case (1879, p. 226).

Grants

The Conference resolves that the ordinary Grant be no longer at the sole disposal of the District Synods. The Conference directs that inquiry be made, year by year, either by the District Synods or their Committees,

into the circumstances and needs of each Circuit receiving aid from the Grant; and that a Report be presented to the Home Mission Committee, which shall negotiate with the District Synods concerned in cases where revision of the Grant seems desirable (1893, pp. 259, 260).

Grant for Lay Agents

N.B.—The Synod makes application to the Home Mission Committee for a Grant for Lay Agents. The application is considered at the Special Meeting of the Committee in July, and is decided by the Conference.

Home Missionary Meetings

A Home Missionary Meeting shall be held in every Chapel and Preaching Place in the Connexion (1879, p. 225; 1900, p. 270).

Report on the Work of Lay Agents

The District Home Mission and Chapel Committee shall present to the May District Synod a Report of the work done within the District by the Lay Agents; and, with a view to the complete representation of all Wesleyan Methodist Home Missionary Agencies, of whatever kind, shall also transmit a Report, through the District Synod, to the Connexional Home Mission Committee, that it may furnish, in its Annual Report, a suitable summary of the Work done in all the Districts (1879, p. 239).

N.B.—For the Rules relating to the employment of Lay Agents, see pp. 159-62.

Local Missions

N.B.—The Reports of Local Missions are considered by the Synods. When the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee's Report has been considered, it is convenient to introduce, in the three London Synods, the Report of the London Mission and Extension Fund (Work and Workers' Section); in the First London Synod, the Report of the Seamen's Mission; in the Manchester Synod, the Report of the Manchester and Salford Mission; and, similarly, in the Birmingham, Liverpool, Bolton, Leeds, Sheffield, Hull, Nottingham, and Halifax and Bradford Synods, respectively, the Report of the Local Mission. Any similar Mission, in any other District, should be reported, and, where required, Committees of Management appointed (*Order and Form*, p. 64).

Reports on the Work of Home Missionaries

The Reports of all Home Mission Work, including Army and Navy Work, within the limits of any District, shall be submitted to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, which shall present them, with any needful remarks thereupon, to the District Synod (1885, p. 219).

Circuits under Obligation to provide additional Ministers' Houses

Whenever a married Minister is appointed to a Circuit which has failed to fulfil its obligation to provide for a family, the additional amount paid to him shall be entered as a Grant to the Circuit; and so long as the pledge remains unfulfilled, it shall be considered annually, first in the May District Synod, and then on the report

of that Synod, by the Conference, whether the appointment should be longer continued (1879, p. 230).

N.B.—For Rules respecting Grants towards Furniture, see pp. 156, 157.

Division of Circuits

See pp. 174-77.

Increase or Reduction of Number of Ministers

All applications for Additional Ministers, or for the reduction of the number of Ministers in any Circuit, shall be considered by the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, which shall report thereon to the Synod (*Journal*, 1894; *Minutes*, 1896, p. 359).

Connexional Fund

A separate Fund shall be formed, to be called the 'Connexional Fund,' to meet Connexional charges. These shall for the present include:

1. All items now described as 'Connexional Expenses' not chargeable to Circuits.

2. Supplies for Afflicted and Deceased Ministers.

3. Circuit Travelling for Aged and Infirm Ministers.

4. Aid Grants to special cases for Removals and Afflictions, and Grants for furnishing additional Ministers' Houses (1900, p. 269)

5. The existing Regulations as to applications for Grants from the Home Mission Fund for Supplies, Circuit Travelling, Removals, Furniture, and Afflictions shall for the present remain in force and apply to all similar Application for Grants from the Connexional Fund (1900, p. 282).

6. All applications for Grants for Supplies, Circuit

Travelling, Removals, Furniture, and Afflictions, shall be submitted to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, whose recommendations shall be reported to the May Synod (1901, p. 54).

Afflictions and Funeral Expenses

See pp. 152, 153.

Circuit Travelling

See pp. 593, 594.

Circuit Supplies

See pp. 157, 158.

Grants for Removal Expenses

All applications for Grants, before being paid, must be approved by the May District Synod (1879, p. 229).
See p. 153.

N.B.—The number in family must be stated, together with the distance travelled, and the amount, if any, received from the Circuit (*Order and Form*, p. 70).

1. Grants for Removal Expenses shall be submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the Removal took place, and be approved by the Synod of the District to which that Circuit belongs (1815, vol. iv., p. 129; 1875, vol. xix., p. 682; 1876, vol. xx., p. 126).

2. If any Minister be appointed by the Conference to a Circuit after an invitation sent by that Circuit to the Minister, every expense incurred by his removal, beyond what the Circuit he is leaving may provide, shall be borne by his new Circuit (1879, pp. 228, 229).

3. A Grant towards the Removal Expenses of any Minister may be made by the Connexional Fund Committee, so soon as it has been certified by the Chairman of the District that the claim is reasonable, that it has

been duly submitted to the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit from which the removal has taken place, and that the Circuit is unable to meet the whole expense (1879, pp. 228, 229).

N.B.—For the Removal Expenses of a Probationer sent by the President to a Circuit as a Supply, see p. 153.

Furniture for Additional Houses

See pp. 156, 157.

Furniture for Supernumeraries and Widows

See p. 375.

Foreign Missions

N.B.—1. Each Circuit Treasurer shall remit to the District Treasurer, at least once in every month, all sums, less incidental expenses, raised in the Circuit, in whatever way collected.

2. Each District Treasurer shall remit to the General Treasurers of the Society, at least once in every month, all sums, less incidental expenses, received by him from the various Circuits in his District. See *Rules of Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society*.

Juvenile Associations

See pp. 162, 163.

Wesley Guild

See pp. 248–58.

An Annual Return shall be presented to the District Synods showing the number of Guilds in each Circuit, the places at which they are held, and the name and address of the Secretary of each Guild (*Journal*, 1904). See *Wesley Guild Manual*, p. 200.

The Conference directs that the Circuit Guild Returns which are prepared for the Synod shall be submitted to, and considered by, the March Quarterly Meeting in the same way as other Departmental Returns (1907, p. 84).

Sunday and Day Schools

The Sunday School Secretary, appointed by each District Synod in September, shall collect the Circuit Schedules, summarize the Statistics contained in them, present to the District Synod in May a Report on the Sunday and Week-day Schools of the District, and transmit the Schedules, with any Resolutions of the District Synod relating to Education, to the Secretary of the General Education Committee (1873, vol. xix., p. 179).

See *Order and Form*, pp. 73, 76, 77.

1. In all cases of difficulty in carrying on our Connexional Day Schools which are likely to result in the closing or transfer of such Schools, before such action be initiated the District Sunday School Committee shall be consulted, it being understood that such consultation shall not interfere with the direction of the Conference requiring consultation with the General Education Committee (1893, p. 327). See pp. 127, 165, 234-37.

2. The District Sunday School Committee shall be consulted before a Sunday School is closed (1894, p. 324).

Adult Bible Classes and Pleasant Sunday Afternoons for the People

1. An Annual Return of the members of these Classes shall be made to the District Synods in May, through the Sunday School Committees of the Districts, and shall be by them reported to the Connexional Sunday School

Council and by it forwarded to the Conference (1895, p. 258; 1911, p. 515). See p. 78.

2. The Secretary of the Connexional Sunday School Department shall obtain the information from the Secretaries of the District (1903, p. 359).

Temperance Committee

The District Temperance Committee shall prepare a Report on the Temperance Work in the District, and submit the same to the District Synod in May; and afterwards forward it, with any Resolutions of the District Synod thereupon, to the Secretary of the General Temperance Committee (1879, p. 266).

Lord's Day Observance

The Temperance Committee of each District shall take direct oversight of the Lord's Day Question (1896, p. 331).

Local Preachers' Committee

1. The returns for the District Local Preachers' Committee shall be compiled at the March Local Preachers' Meeting, and signed by the Superintendent of the Circuit and the Secretary of the Local Preachers' Meeting (1898, p. 362).

2. The statistics required for the annual return to the District Local Preachers' Committee shall be furnished by the Superintendent to the Circuit Secretary (1899, pp. 335, 336).

3. The Local Secretary shall, immediately after the March Local Preachers' Meeting, report to the District Local Preachers' Committee, on Forms to be prepared, the various statistical facts relating to Local Preachers in that Circuit.

4. The District Local Preachers' Committee shall prepare a Report based upon the statistics so furnished and relating to the work of the year, to be presented to the May Synod.

5. Immediately after the May Synod the Reports of the District Local Preachers' Committees shall be sent to the Lay Secretary of the Connexional Committee, which shall report thereon to the Conference (1895, pp. 312, 313). See pp. 97-99.

For *Connexional Local Preachers' Committee* see pp. 99, 100.

Class Leaders' Committee

See p. 453.

Conversation on the Work of God

See *Order and Form*, p. 78.

Open Air Work

The Conference directs that the subject of Open Air Work receive special consideration in the Synods, with particular reference to concerted Circuit action in the larger towns (1909, p. 363).

Chapel Affairs and District Synods

1. Chairmen of Districts are required to make a full examination, in the May District Synods, of the returns relating to every new Chapel, School, House, or Organ, and all Enlargements and Purchases; and District Chapel Secretaries are required to forward immediately to the General Chapel Committee all Minutes and Schedules relating to such cases.

2. Chairmen of Districts are also required to examine into all cases specially remitted to them on account of

the Trustees having failed, in former years, to observe the prescribed conditions, and cause a record of the particulars to be made in the District Minutes. In order to give effect to this Regulation, the District Minutes relating to such cases shall be read at the September District Synods, that Superintendents may be prepared to produce, at the ensuing May District Synods, Schedules duly filled up, showing the actual state of such Trusts.

3. The attention of District Synods is also directed to the following particulars:—

(1.) All Chapels, previously to their being opened, shall be duly registered as places of Public Worship, and the Certificate of such Registration shall be publicly read at the Opening Service.

(2.) Before the occupation, for Connexional purposes, of any Property affected by our Rules, Superintendents shall apply for the consent of the Chapel Committee.

(3.) Applications for pecuniary assistance towards Chapels or Schools shall not be made beyond the limits of the Circuits in which such Chapels or Schools are, or are intended to be, erected, unless such applications shall have been expressly sanctioned by the Conference.

(4.) Trustees violating any of our Rules relating to Chapel Affairs shall not receive assistance from the Chapel Fund, unless the Conference, upon a representation of the case by the Chapel Committee, shall authorize such assistance (1866, vol. xvi., p. 567).

Aid to Chapels without Seat-rents

The Chapel Committee shall have liberty to assist by Loan without interest as well as by Grant, in the erection

of Chapels in which no seat-rents are to be charged, and in the payment of debts on such Chapels ; provided that, after careful inquiry, the Committee is convinced that the special necessities of the locality in question render the letting of pews undesirable ; and provided further that it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the Committee that an income can be obtained from other sources sufficient to meet all the expenses of the Trust, to provide for an Annual Subscription to the Chapel Fund, and for such assistance to Circuit Funds and other objects as would have been given if seat-rents had been charged (1889, p. 234). See p. 146.

Grants from Chapel Committee

1. Applications for relief by Grants must be made upon the authorized Schedules.

2. Applications for relief by Grants must be submitted to the May District Synod ; but cases of special exigency may be considered, if they pass the September District Synod. All such applications must be made upon the authorized Schedules. Any additional statement which Trustees may deem it necessary to lay before the Committee must be presented in writing.

3. Applications for Grants for relief of Chapel debts, if made on the proper Schedule, may, in urgent cases, be considered and determined by the Chapel Committee without the recommendation of the District Synod, or of the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee (1895, p. 249).

4. The Chapel Committee shall be authorized to consider Applications for Grants towards the removal of debts on Chapel Trusts on the recommendation of District Home Mission and Chapel Committees ; and each

case so recommended shall be duly reported to the ensuing Meeting of the District Synod, with the other business which has been under the consideration of such Committee.

5. No application for relief shall be recommended by a District Synod, unless the Trustees make Anniversary Collections in aid of their Funds, or show sufficient cause to the contrary ; nor until they engage to contribute an Annual Subscription from their Trust Estate to the Chapel Fund—the amount to be agreed upon with the Committee.

6. In the case of any application for the relief of a Chapel, if any part of the Trust premises be occupied as a Sunday School, a reasonable rent must be paid to the Trustees.

7. No case shall be considered by the Chapel Committee unless the Deeds be produced, if required.

8. In all cases of Grants towards the reduction of debts, the Chapel Committee shall see that securities to the whole amount of the sum liquidated be cancelled, and a record of them preserved by the Committee.

9. The Conference directs that if, in any case to which a Connexional Committee has paid a Grant or Loan towards the cost of erecting a Chapel on condition that no debt shall be left except a Loan or Loans repayable without interest, any other debt be contracted without the sanction of the Committee advancing the Loan and of the General Chapel Committee, the particulars of such debt and the circumstances which occasioned it shall be reported to the ensuing May Synod of the District in which such Chapel is situated, and a record of the action taken thereon by the said District Synod shall be presented to the ensuing Conference (1866, vol. xvi., p. 570 ;

1874, vol. xix., p. 420 ; 1876, vol. xx., p. 117 ; 1895, p. 249 ; *Compendium of Regulations relating to Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property*, p. 18).

Erection, Purchase, or Enlargement of Trust Property

N.B.—The *Order and Form of Business* contains the following summary of Regulations concerning the Erection, Purchase, and Enlargement of Trust Property.

1. No Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house shall be erected, purchased, or enlarged, without the previous consent of the Superintendent, and of the Quarterly Meeting of the Circuit.

2. Every ordinary Application for permission to erect, enlarge, or purchase a Chapel, School, or Dwelling-house, or to introduce an Organ into a Chapel, or for the purchase or sale of any Trust Property, must be presented to the District Synod on a Schedule, signed by the Superintendent, and by at least three of the acting or proposed Trustees ; and the approbation of the Synod must be obtained before any such case can be sanctioned by the Chapel Committee.

3. In any case of urgency, however, relating to the enlargement, purchase, or sale of any Chapel, School, or other Trust Property, where it would be seriously detrimental to defer the consideration of the case till the meeting of the May or the September District Synod, the Home Mission and Chapel Committee of the District may consider such case ; and on receiving from that Committee a Schedule properly filled up and signed, the Chapel Committee is authorized to deal with the case as though it had passed the District Synod. All such cases, however, with the circumstances which render this

mode of procedure necessary, must be reported to the ensuing District Synod.

N.B.—Any expenses incurred by Committees for such purposes must be defrayed by the parties on whose behalf the meetings are held.

4. Subject to the provision hereinafter mentioned, no Chapel or other Property shall be erected, purchased, or enlarged, unless the Committee is satisfied either that the entire outlay will be defrayed within twelve months after the opening, or that at least three-fourths of such outlay will be defrayed within such period of twelve months, and the remainder within a definite time to be agreed upon with the Committee.

(1) In the case, however, of the erection, purchase, or acquisition by Trustees, of property (other than Chapels or Schools) yielding a fixed revenue, and which can be shown to be a permanent advantage to the Trust, the Committee shall have power, at its discretion, to relax the preceding Rule.

(2) In the case of an enlargement or alteration of a Chapel already free from debt, or of a Chapel the income of which is large in proportion to the debt, the amount of temporary debt to be allowed on such enlargement or alteration may be fixed with a due regard to the ability of the Trust to discharge it out of surplus income within a time to be agreed upon with the Committee.

(3) In any case in which money is lent to Trustees to be repaid without interest, and an adequate guarantee is given that no interest shall be charged for such money during a period of time to be specified, the amount of interest that would have been payable at £5 per cent., if the sum so lent had been subject to interest, may be taken into consideration in estimating the amount of

debt which may be allowed to remain for a time on the Trust.

(4) In the case of money given on annuity, the value of the annuity shall be estimated as a debt, or deduction, equal to the sum for which a Government annuity of the same amount, for a person of the same age, may be purchased.

N.B.—Trustees are advised not to grant Annuities, except on very easy terms ; and consultation with the Chapel Committee is recommended.

(5) Any sum which the Trustees of any other Chapel may engage to vote out of their surplus Trust income, year by year, for a definite time, in aid of a new Chapel, may be estimated as equivalent to a present subscription, if it is to be paid within four years ; but if it is to be paid during a longer term, then as equivalent to a subscription not exceeding its present money-value.

(6) If any Trust Property be subject to ground-rent, or other incumbrance, the capitalized value thereof shall be estimated as part of the outlay.

(7) Any Schoolroom connected with a Chapel Trust Estate, the income of which may be available for the payment of interest, shall be subject to the Regulations which apply to the erection and enlargement of Chapels (1866, vol. xvi., pp. 563-5).

5. Any enlargement of a Schoolroom used as a Day School, and not connected with a Chapel Trust Estate, the income of which may, in the united judgement of the Education Committee and the Chapel Committee, be available and sufficient for the payment of interest, as well as of any debt allowed, shall be subject to the Regulations which apply to the enlargement of Chapels (1879, p. 214).

6. No other Schoolroom shall be erected, purchased,

or enlarged, unless the Committee is satisfied that the entire outlay will be defrayed within twelve months after the opening, or reopening, of such Schoolroom.

7. Superintendents of Circuits, and promoters of Day Schools, are to communicate, first, with the Education Committee, according to its Rules ; and, secondly, with the Chapel Committee, in accordance with the preceding Rules. See p. 229.

8. The twelve months mentioned in the preceding Regulations shall be considered as ending at the May District Synod next following the expiration of that period.

9. The preceding Regulations do not apply to the purchase of Sites when by such purchase no debt is brought upon any existing Trust Estate. See pp. 107, 114.

10. The obligation to obtain the sanction of the Chapel Committee extends to all cases of erection, purchase, or enlargement, whether debt be incurred or not, and also to cases of alteration in which it is proposed to incur debt (1866, vol. xvi., pp. 564-6).

11. Not only every addition to the area of a Chapel, but the erection of a gallery, or of any adjoining room, shall be considered an Enlargement within the meaning of the Rule of 1866 (1872, vol. xviii., p. 624).

12. The Conference recommends Trustees to confer with the Chapel Committee before commencing important alterations of their Trust premises, though they may not, in the first instance, intend to incur debt (1872, vol. xviii., p. 624).

13. In all cases of Chapel Erection or Enlargement, duly sanctioned by the Chapel Committee, in which Trustees have failed, through inadvertence, to obtain consent to the full amount of debt that the Conference

Rules would have allowed the Committee to sanction, the Chapel Committee is authorized, if it sees fit, to aid local efforts for the removal of such debt (1883, p. 205).

14. The Committee shall be satisfied, before giving its sanction to any case, that all land required for the purpose is, or will be, legally secured for the intended object. Drafts of all Deeds shall be forwarded to the Committee for examination (*Compendium of Regulations relating to Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property*, p. 8).

Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes

In addition to the Connexional sanction already required by our Rules before any property can be acquired for Methodist purposes, any Ministers or other persons connected with our Societies contemplating the erection or acquisition of a Soldiers' or Sailors' Home, shall communicate with the Army and Navy Board. And no binding arrangements shall be entered into until the written consent of the Home Mission Committee, or of the Foreign Missionary Committee as the case may be, shall have been received (1889, p. 317).

Sales

N.B.—The Schedule provided for the purpose, duly filled up, should be presented to the Meeting, and be carefully considered.

1. Every application for the permission of Conference for the Sale of a Chapel, or other Trust Property, must be approved by the District Synod or District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, and by the Chapel Committee, which shall report to the Conference.

2. If the sale of a Chapel or other Trust Property should be deemed expedient in the interval between one

Conference and another, the President for the time being is authorized, on behalf of the Conference, to affix his signature to the document giving permission to sell, provided that each case be first certified to him as approved by the Chapel Committee (1866, vol. xvi., p. 569).

3. The Conference directs that the Regulations as to the Sale of Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property shall also apply to the transfer of Wesleyan Methodist School premises to the Public Education Authority, under the 23rd section of the Elementary Education Act, 1870, in any cases in which it may be found that the consent of the Conference is necessary (1873, vol. xix., p. 154).

Removal of Inscriptions

See p. 124.

Sale of Village Chapels

Before consent is given to the sale of any Village Chapel not to be superseded by a new erection, the opinion of the Home Mission Committee shall be obtained as to the desirability of retaining the property (1888, p. 234).

Organs

Every application for permission to introduce an Organ into a Chapel shall be made on the Schedule provided for the purpose, to the District Synod, or District Home Mission and Chapel Committee; and, if approved, shall then be submitted to the Chapel Committee. The entire cost of an Organ shall be defrayed at or before the opening (1866, vol. xvi., p. 566).

Connexional Organ Sub-Committee

See pp. 118, 119.

Safe Custody of Deeds

See pp. 109, 110.

Circuit Register of Deeds

See p. 110.

London Mission and Extension Fund

N.B.—1. In the May Meetings of the Synods of the three London Districts the interests of the London Mission and Extension Fund are to be considered when the Connexional Funds are under review (1875, vol. xix., pp. 679, 680).

2. In the May Synods of these Districts, the following Question is to be asked: 'Have the Chapel Trusts that have been assisted by the London Mission and Extension Fund contributed to the Fund their annual repayment of Loans, and their subscription according to the resolutions of the Committee?' (1883, pp. 209, 309). See *Order and Form*, p. 88.

Chapel Fund Committees of the Welsh Districts

The Synods of the First and Second North Wales Districts, at their May Meetings, are to nominate to the Conference eight Laymen to be members of the District Chapel Fund Committees; and the Synod of the South Wales District is likewise to nominate to the Conference eight Laymen to be members of the South Wales District Chapel Fund Committee (1867, vol. xvii., p. 136; 1873, vol. xix., p. 158).

With regard to these two Funds, it is provided that 'all matters relating to them, and the proceedings of the District Synod with regard to Trust Property and these

District Chapel Fund Committees, shall be annually reported, through the General Chapel Committee, to the Conference' (1867, vol. xvii., p. 137 ; 1873, vol. xix., p. 159). See *Order and Form*, p. 88.

Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland

N.B.—The Synod of the Scotland District is to nominate a Committee of Ministers and Laymen for the Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland, 'to be annually submitted to the Conference for appointment, and to act in harmony with the Chapel Committee.' This General Committee shall consist of the Superintendent of each Circuit in Scotland, one Layman from each such Circuit, and of such other gentleman or gentlemen from any Circuit in Scotland as the District Synod may, from time to time, determine ; reserving, however, to the District Synod full power, with consent of the Conference, to alter or modify the constitution of such General Committee, from time to time, as circumstances may, in their opinion, render desirable (1881, pp. 348, 349).

In the May Synod of the Scotland District, the interests of this Fund shall be considered when the Connexional Funds are under review (1883, p. 208).

See *Order and Form*, pp. 88, 89.

District Sustentation Fund

See p. 513.

Election of Lay Representatives to the Conference

N.B.—The number of Lay Representatives allocated to each District is given in the *Minutes* of the preceding Conference.

1. No Layman shall be eligible as a Representative, whether elected annually by the Conference, or by the May Meeting of the District Synod, unless he be a Member of Society of five years' continuous standing, and, at the time of his election by the Conference, or nomination in the District Synod, a holder of office as a Trustee of Connexional Property, a member of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or a member of a District Synod. Any Layman nominated in a District Synod must be a Member of Society in some Circuit within that District (1877, vol. xx., p. 420).

2. The election of Lay Representatives to the Conference shall be by the separate vote of the Laymen taken by ballot after nomination, in the May Meeting of the District Synods; such nomination to be by the Lay members only (1877, vol. xx., p. 421).

3. The Conference recommends the Synods to re-elect annually, when practicable, one-third of the total number of Lay Representatives from among such of the Lay Representatives elected at the previous May Synod as shall be eligible and shall offer themselves for re-election (1900, p. 341).

4. In the event of one or more of the Laymen elected to attend the Conference in its Representative Session being unable to fulfil their appointments, they shall inform the Chairman of the District before the beginning of the Conference, and their place or places shall then be taken by the person or persons who received the highest number of votes next to those elected (1895, pp. 325, 326).

5. In order to ensure communication with the Lay Representatives, it is necessary that the District Secretaries send the Christian as well as the Surname of each

Layman, his exact Postal address, with the Circuit in which he holds office, to the Minister appointed by the Conference to prepare the volume of *Agenda* (1889, p. 307).

6. Duly qualified and elected Women are eligible as Lay Representatives to the Conference (1909, p. 119; 1910, p. 99).

Election of Members of Connexional Committees

See *Order and Form*, pp. 90, 91.

Worn-out Ministers' Fund

A Report shall be made to the District Synod, in May, of the amount of the Private Subscriptions and of the Annual Public Collections in each Circuit for the year immediately preceding (1884, p. 248).

List of Supernumeraries and Widows

N.B.—The names and residences must be inserted in full.

If any Minister has died during the year, and has left a Widow, this fact should be recorded. On the decease of a Supernumerary or the Widow of a Minister, the Superintendent should notify the fact immediately to the Treasurers of the Auxiliary Fund, and to the Steward of the Annuitant Society.

Ministers becoming Supernumeraries while in the Foreign Work, and the Widows of Ministers who have died in that Work, are claimants on the Funds of the Missionary Society.

If a Widow is twelve years younger than her husband, the Annuity is reduced to one-half; if the disparity reaches twenty years, or if, at the time of the marriage, the husband was a Supernumerary, no Annuity is allowed (*Order and Form*, p. 92).

Whenever a Claimant on this Fund shall cease to be a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society, he or she, as the case may be, shall be removed from the list of Claimants (*Journal*, 1845).

All Ministers, whether members of the Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society or not, shall be equally entitled to the benefit of the Auxiliary Fund (1872, vol. xviii., pp. 636, 637).

Grants for Affliction

In every case of this kind a statement must be presented to the Chairman, at least a week before the meeting of the Synod, showing the annual amount received by the applicant from the Annuitant Society; the amount of claims on the Worn-out Ministers' Fund and the Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children; what is received from Marris's Fund, or from any private source; what the Grant, if any, received last year; together with the reasons of the present application (*Order and Form*, p. 93).

N.B.—All Minutes concerning the Auxiliary Fund must be sent to the General Treasurers of that Fund immediately after the District Synod.

Children's Fund

See pp. 148-51, 505-10, 608-10.

Kingswood School

1. The School Year shall begin in September; but applications for admission at other times will always be considered. Such applications must be sent to the Minister mentioned in the *Minutes*, or to the Head Master of the School. Boys are not admitted before the age of ten, except after direct vote of the Governors.

N.B.—In the case of boys admitted by vote of the Governors under the age of ten, or at any other period of the year than September, the parent may be required by the Governors to pay for the portion of that year at the rate of £25.

2. An Examination will be set in elementary English subjects suitable to boys of about the age of eleven. A graduated age allowance will be made for younger boys, while older boys will be expected to reach a correspondingly higher standard, and boys above the age of twelve will be expected to show some knowledge of Latin and French. A specimen examination paper will be sent by the Head Master upon receipt of a stamped envelope.

3. The ordinary time of residence shall be six years, provided that the Education Allowances have either not been received or have been returned. See p. 493.

4. The terms of election to Scholarships shall be fixed by the Governors. So far as is consonant with the trusts affecting them, the Scholarships shall be awarded as a general rule to boys in their seventeenth year. Some shall be reserved for those who have already held one Scholarship. The Exhibition upon the Foundation of the late John Fernley shall be tenable at any place of Higher Education.

5. The scale of payment for Extra Years shall be as follows :

Sons of Supernumeraries and Widows .. £22

For all others £25

Such payments shall be due in three equal instalments, one at the close of each term, and shall be paid to the School direct.

Ministers whose sons hold Scholarships or have secured an extra year shall be entitled to the six guineas

from the Maintenance Section ; and, unless they have already received for six years, to the £12 for Education.

6. Parents having children at the School shall be required to give three months' notice before the Removal of such child or children. In the event of parents not giving such notice, the Officers of the Fund shall be authorized to withhold three months' Allowances, which would otherwise be payable for each such child or children. If a boy to whom an extra year has been granted be withdrawn without the required three months' notice, the parent or guardian shall pay one-fourth of the sum charged for the extra year in lieu of such notice.

7. The School Year shall be divided into three terms.

N.B.—A Certificate of health, signed by a medical practitioner, shall be required at the commencement of each term of all children received into, or returning to, our Connexional Schools (1878, vol. xxi., p. 204).

8. The application of the Rule respecting the clothing of the sons of necessitous Supernumeraries or Widows shall be left to the discretion of the General Committee.

9. Travelling expenses shall be paid out of the General Fund ; viz., third-class fare each way, for all pupils, between Bath station and the railway station nearest their homes as recorded in the *Minutes* of Conference, or nearest the place where the holiday is to be spent, whichever shall involve the smaller payment.

N.B.—The above Minute is limited to England and Wales, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Isles. See *Minutes* for current year.

Trinity Hall School

1. Not later than October 15 the name and age of

every applicant for admission shall be sent to the Minister named in the *Minutes*. Girls shall not, in general, be admitted before the age of twelve.

2. An Examination in November will be set in elementary English subjects suitable to girls of about the age of twelve or thirteen years. A graduated age allowance will be made for the candidates, and older girls will be expected to reach a correspondingly higher standard. A copy of a specimen paper will be sent by the Head Mistress upon receipt of a stamped envelope.

Candidates left over from one year to another shall be entitled to admission without re-examination, provided that 12 per cent. be deducted from their marks obtained in the examination of the previous year. Such Candidates shall be allowed to sit again for examination if this course be preferred.

3. The ordinary term of residence shall be four years for girls on whose behalf not more than two educational payments have been made previous to their entrance at School. Every such payment in excess of two shall diminish the time of residence at the School. In special cases, when in the opinion of the Governors and the General Committee it is deemed desirable, the term of residence 'on the foundation' may be extended from four to six years.

4. The scale of payment for Extra Years shall be as follows :

Daughters of Supernumeraries and Widows £22

For all others £30

Such payments shall be due in three equal instalments, one at the close of each term, and shall be paid direct to the School.

Ministers whose daughters hold Scholarships or have secured an extra year shall be entitled to the six guineas from the Maintenance Section ; and, unless they have already received for six years, to the £12 for Education.

5. A sum of £60 per annum shall be available from the General Fund for Leaving Scholarships, to be awarded to necessitous and eligible candidates, in a sum, or sums, of not less than £10 ; on the recommendation of a small Committee composed of the Local Treasurer, Local Secretary, and the Head Mistress. Such Leaving Scholarships to be held at some approved place of Higher Education.

6. The Regulation for Kingswood School concerning notice of Removal from School shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to Trinity Hall School. See p. 490.

7. The School Year at Trinity Hall shall be divided into three terms.

8. Travelling expenses shall be paid out of the General Fund ; viz., third-class fare each way, for all pupils between the Southport station and the railway station nearest their homes as recorded in the *Minutes* of Conference, or nearest the place where the holiday is to be spent, whichever shall involve the smaller payment.

N.B.—The above Minute is limited to England and Wales, the Isle of Man, and the Channel Isles. See *Minutes* for current year.

Educational Allowances for Children not at the Schools

N.B.—The Parents of boys and girls in the Schools are specially cautioned not to claim for them from the Maintenance Section of the Fund (1878, p. 204).

1. Payments shall be made at Conference for the calendar year then current.

2. Parents may begin to claim for their children when they are nine, ten, eleven, or twelve years of age on the preceding Christmas Day ; but the first claim for a child who is twelve years of age on or before any Christmas Day must be made at the following Conference at the latest.

3. Parents who have once begun to claim shall receive their payments annually. This Regulation shall not apply in the case of a candidate for admission to the Schools who has passed the Entrance Examination, but for whom there is not room at the next following re-opening.

4. Any Educational Allowance may be returned within the calendar year in which it is received. Educational allowances received in previous years may be returned, provided (1) that Simple Interest is paid thereon at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum for such period as they have been held, and (2) that the repayment is made before the commencement of the term for which it is due.

N.B.—(i) A term's notice of intention to return Educational Allowances must be given, and in the case of a pupil who will be sixteen years of age when due to leave, permission to return the allowance must be obtained from the Governors.

(ii) All applications and payments in respect of the return of Educational Allowances should be made to the Minister named in the *Minutes*.

5. Not later than March 1 each Superintendent shall send to the Minister named in the *Minutes* a particular account of all claims for Educational Allowances in his Circuit ; specifying distinctly the names of the children for whose education the claims are made, together with

the date, year, and place of their birth, and the exact number of years during which the allowance has been received. Any claims delayed beyond the date of the May Synods are delayed at the risk of the parents. No claim to be entered upon this schedule for children at the Schools. See 1914, pp. 19-21.

N.B.—As the foregoing administrative Regulations are subject to occasional variation, it is necessary that the Resolutions of the Conference respecting the affairs of the Ministers' Children's Fund should be consulted year by year.

Memorandum of Agreement

In those cases in which children are admitted to our Schools whose fathers were admitted into Full Connexion subsequent to the birth of such children, unless the amount fixed as compensation money in the Memorandum of Agreement has been paid, £30 a year shall be charged for each child (1881, p. 206). See pp. 268-70.

Collections and Subscriptions

N.B.—The times for making the Collections and applying for the Subscriptions to the several Connexional Funds, are as follows :

CONNEXIONAL FUNDS.	SUBSCRIPTIONS.	COLLECTIONS.
Theological Institution.	January 1.	December.
General Chapel Fund.	February 1.	February.
Connexional Fund.	March 1.	March.
Educational Fund.	April 1.	March.
Foreign Mission Fund.	May 1.	Various.
Worn-out Ministers' Fund.	May 1.	July.
Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children.	November 1.	November.
Home Mission Fund.	December 1.	Various.

The Chairman is to make strict inquiry as to the cause of any deficiency or delay. See *Order and Form*, p. 96.

Provisional Legislation

See pp. 462, 463.

Suggestions to Conference

1. A copy of any Suggestion from a District Synod to the Conference, which relates to any Connexional Department, shall be sent, immediately after the District Synod, to the Secretary of the Department concerned (1891, p. 323).

2. The Convener of the Conference Committee on Memorials from Circuits and Suggestions from District Synods is authorized to obtain, immediately after the Annual District Synods, from the Secretaries of the District Synods copies of any Suggestions which may have been made.

3. Nothing shall be deemed to be a Suggestion of a District Synod but what is recorded in answer to the question on the subject in the District Minutes (1872, vol. xviii., p. 652).

N.B.—1. The Secretary of the Synod should enter under the question relating to Suggestions any direct Suggestion to the Conference previously made by the Synod during the course of its business.

2. Copies of any Suggestions from District Synods to the Conference should be forwarded, immediately after the May Synods, to the Convener of the Conference Committee on Memorials and Suggestions. See *Order and Form*, p. 97.

District Minutes

The Chairmen of Districts are required to procure two complete copies of the Minutes of the several Annual and other Meetings of the District Synods, transcribed according to the order of time in which such Synods shall have been held, and duly signed by the Chairman and Secretary.

One of these copies shall be inserted in the District Records; the other shall be sent to the Assistant Secretary of the Conference named in the *Minutes*, not later than the day therein appointed, and delivered by him to the President on the first day of the Conference, to be preserved under his direction, as a document appertaining to the Connexion.

The copies of the latter class shall be written on foolscap paper, that they may be annually bound together in one volume.

The District Secretary is required to furnish the Chairman with such extracts from the District Minutes as he will need at the Conference (1799, vol. ii., p. 24; 1835, vol. vii., p. 554; 1877, vol. xx., p. 514; 1881, pp. 307, 308; 1890, p. 325).

Custody of District Minute Books

N.B.—In 1913 the Conference specially considered the question of the custody and record of Disciplinary cases in the District Minutes at Home and Abroad. Its Resolutions on the subject were entered in the *Journal*. In 1914 the Conference directed its Secretary to incorporate the Resolutions of 1913 relating to the subject in the circular sent to the Chairmen of Districts, and in the Rules sent to Financial Secretaries (1914, p. 374). See p. 497.

Annual Returns of Members

N.B.—The Returns of Members in the Society are to be forwarded, immediately after the May Synods, as directed in Standing Orders. See 1914, p. 428.

Connexional Documents

The Chairmen of Districts are directed to ascertain what District Minute Books, which are filled up, or other Connexional Documents of former times, are in the houses of our Ministers or elsewhere in the country, and to send them to the Book Steward, to be deposited in the Fireproof Safe, which is provided at the Book Room for Connexional Documents (1848, vol. xi., p. 111).

For *Custody of Connexional Documents*, see pp. 583, 584.

Official Circuit Books and Records

The Conference urges upon all concerned the importance of securing that all Minute and Account Books of Circuits and Trusts, when no longer needed for reference, shall be placed in the Circuit Safe, or sent to the Conference Office for secure keeping (1896, p. 332).

III. FINANCIAL DISTRICT SYNOD**Constitution and Time of Holding Synod**

N.B.—A Synod shall be held annually in each District in the month of September, consisting of the Superintendent Minister of each Circuit, and as many other Ministers as can conveniently attend; the Circuit Stewards; the Lay Representatives elected at the March Quarterly Meeting; the District Treasurers of Connexional Funds; any General Treasurer of a Connexional Fund who is a Member of Society resident in

the District ; and the Lay Members of the several District Committees appointed at the preceding September Synod throughout the District. See pp. 449-54.

The provision as to Substitutes for Circuit Stewards who may have declared their inability to attend applies both to the May and September District Synods.

The place of meeting shall be determined by the Chairman, and the time shall be so fixed as to precede the September Quarterly Meetings.

The Conference directs that Ministers, not being Superintendents, be summoned to the Meeting of the District Synod. See 1897, p. 243.

The Financial Secretary of the District is, *ex officio*, the Secretary of the September Synod (1820, vol. v., pp. 142, 143 ; 1821, vol. v., p. 243 ; *Order and Form*, p. 14).

District Committees

N.B.—The Conference declares that no one is eligible for a seat in the District Synod, or upon any Committee thereof, who is not a Member of the Wesleyan Methodist Church (1892, p. 309).

District Home Mission and Chapel Committee

For *Constitution* of Committee see pp. 451, 452.

1. The Committee shall meet at stated intervals, to be determined in each case by the Synod, and at such other times as the Chairman shall see fit to summon it.

2. The Committee shall discharge the duties heretofore assigned to the District Home Mission and District Chapel Committees respectively. Special consideration shall be given to all applications for Grants to dependent Circuits and Home Mission Stations, and to all requests for Additional Ministers, or for the reduction in the

number of Ministers, and the Committee shall prepare recommendations to the Synod on all such applications and requests.

N.B.—All applications for Grants for Supplies, Circuit Travelling, Removals, Furniture, and Afflictions, shall be submitted to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, whose recommendations shall be reported to the May Synod (1901, p. 54).

3. The Committee shall consider and advise the Synod respecting all proposals for the division or amalgamation of Circuits, or alteration of the boundaries of Circuits, and shall minutely inquire into the circumstances of our Churches, and of the population, and as to the number of effective Local Preachers, Class Leaders, and responsible Office-bearers, so as to avoid the creation of weak Circuits or of Circuits unable to deal with the needs of large and populous localities.

4. The Committee shall either itself, or by its Sub-Committees, at least once in every year, meet the Ministers, Circuit Stewards, and Lay Representatives in the Synod of each dependent Circuit and Home Mission Station in the District, and shall receive such statements of accounts and such other information as will enable them to give suitable advice respecting the finances and conditions of work in such Circuits.

5. In any case in which the Conference shall empower the Synod to appoint a Committee for the management of any special Mission in the District, it shall be competent for the Synod, if it deem such a course desirable, to appoint the Home Mission and Chapel Committee of the Synod to act as such Committee of Management.

6. The Committee may advise respecting the purchase

of sites and the promotion of schemes for the extension of Methodism, in both towns and villages.

7. The Committee shall be empowered to institute inquiries as to the best methods of reviving and extending the Work of God in those Circuits which are stationary or declining, or in which the growth of the population or the boundaries of the Circuit have made adequate efforts by the Circuit impossible.

8. The Committee shall have power to appoint a Sub-Committee that can easily and promptly be called together, to consider, in conjunction with the Chairman of the District, any ordinary applications intended for the Monthly Meetings of the Chapel Committee. All such applications, with the resolutions adopted thereon, shall be reported at the next meeting of the Committee. Any case which shall be deemed by the Chairman specially important and critical shall be considered in the first instance by the full Committee.

No sale of any Chapel for which a substitute is not to be provided or respecting which there is a difference of opinion in the Circuit, shall be recommended without the sanction of the full Committee.

The examination of, and report on, the Annual Chapel Schedules shall be made at a meeting of the full Committee to be held prior to the May Synod.

9. The Committee may appoint one of its members as a Lay Treasurer for any Funds at the disposal of the Synod, and one of its members to be associated with the Ministerial Secretary, having special relation to Chapel affairs.

10. Besides attending to the formal business of the Committee, it is hoped that all its members will take a personal interest in the Home Mission and Chapel schemes

of the several Circuits, and will seek in every way possible to promote the interests of the General Funds in the District (1901, pp. 40-42).

Open-air Work

1. The organization of Open-air Work shall be considered annually in the September Synods.

2. The District Home Mission and Chapel Committees are instructed to take the oversight and direction of Open-air Work, and the training of Open-air Speakers, and report to the Synods (1912, p. 48). See 1914, p. 48.

Mission Workers under Direction of Synods

See *Minutes*, 1910, pp. 46, 47.

Additional Houses

The September and May District Synods are directed, when the Stewards are present, to make special inquiry respecting those Circuits which ought to provide additional Houses for married Ministers (1848, vol. xi., p. 89).

Sanitary Condition of Houses

See p. 159.

Home Missionary Meetings

In view of the balance of loss sustained by the Home Mission Fund in relinquishing the Yearly Collection, and the urgent need for the extension of our Work in all parts of the Kingdom, a Home Missionary Meeting shall be held in every Chapel and Preaching-place in the Connexion (1900, p. 270).

Foreign Missions Committee

For Constitution of Committee, see p. 452.

The Synod Missionary Committees shall meet at least once a quarter for the transaction of Missionary business. A Form of Business shall be provided, and small Schedules supplied for obtaining information from the Circuits (1887, pp. 256, 257 ; 1900, p. 240). For particulars concerning the Schedules, see 1887, pp. 256, 257.

First Meetings of Committee

The date of the first meeting of the Committee, to arrange for the business of the Committee for the year, shall be fixed at the September Synod ; and a special meeting shall be held shortly before the May Synod to inquire into the organization and conduct of the Missionary business in each Circuit, and to prepare a Report to be submitted to the District Synod (1887, p. 256).

Conference Deputations

At the several Financial District Synods, held in September, arrangements shall be made for holding Missionary Meetings throughout the respective Districts, especially those in the Circuit Towns, during the ensuing year, so that such Meetings may be held at the least possible expense. The Plan for each District shall be immediately transmitted by the Chairman to the several Preachers who form the Deputation for that District. . . . It is requested that a copy of each arrangement thus formed be forwarded to the General Secretaries in London (1838, vol. viii., pp. 335, 336).

N.B.—I. The President of the Conference and the Missionary Secretaries, when appointed on Foreign

Missionary Deputations, will attend the District Anniversary Meetings only.

2. The Conference appointments of Circuit Ministers on Foreign Missionary Deputations in England (with the exception of Cornwall) are for one Sunday only, and the weekdays from the previous Monday to the following Friday.

3. District Committees are requested not to appoint two members of a Deputation to attend the same Meeting, except in the case of important Central Meetings (1914, p. 15).

4. The Ministers who are appointed as Deputations on behalf of our Home and Foreign Missions are responsible to the Conference for the fulfilment of their appointments (1888, p. 189).

District Auxiliary Missionary Committees

The Conference declares that the appointment of District Missionary Committees (*Minutes*, 1886, p. 213) was not intended to supersede, or in any way set aside, District Auxiliary Committees in the very few Districts where they still existed. The Conference directs that in such Districts it shall be arranged that the members of the District Committee be members of the District Auxiliary Committee and be a Sub-Committee thereof. The District Committee will thus be a bond between the Auxiliary Committee and the Synod, and will present to the Synod the Auxiliary Committee's Reports and Suggestions (1896, p. 237).

Chapel Affairs

N.B.—September Synods are sometimes asked to recommend to the General Chapel Committee applica-

tions for permission to erect or sell Trust Property, or to erect Organs. For Regulations governing such applications, see pp. 478-83.

Chairmen of Districts are required to examine into all cases specially remitted to them on account of the Trustees having failed, in former years, to observe the prescribed conditions, and cause a record of the particulars to be made in the District Minutes. In order to give effect to this Regulation, the District Minutes relating to such cases shall be read at the September Synods, that Superintendents may be prepared to produce, at the ensuing May District Synods, schedules duly filled up, showing the actual state of such Trusts (1866, vol. xvi., p. 567).

District Treasurer of Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund

N.B.—In 1905 the Conference resolved that out of the total sum raised by the Assessment for the Children's Fund an annual payment of £6,500 should be made by the Treasurers of the Children's Fund to the Treasurers of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, and that in consideration of this payment the Collection in the Classes for the latter Fund should cease to be made. See 1904, pp. 117, 118; 1905, p. 99.

1. The Conference resolves that in order to maintain and, if possible, increase the amount of Subscriptions to the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund, now that the Collection is taken out of the Classes, the offices of Circuit and District Treasurers shall be continued, and that District Treasurers shall continue to be members of the District Synods (1905, pp. 54, 55).

2. All Subscriptions, Collections, and other moneys

received in the Circuits for the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund shall be paid to the District Treasurer and remitted by him to the General Treasurer (1906, p. 108).

N.B.—The District Treasurers shall remit the amount to the Ministerial General Treasurer, and close their accounts with the Circuit Treasurers and the General Treasurers not later than December 31.

The General Assessment

N.B.—In 1819 the Conference adopted a Plan 'for stationing the Preachers' Children on the Circuits, as it respects the payment of their usual allowance.' The Plan had been laid before the Preachers and Stewards in the preceding May Synods, and its principle and outline had been very generally approved. Its leading feature was an arrangement for raising the sum required for 'The Children's Fund' by an assessment on the Districts. They were rated 'according to the principle of proportion to Members in Society.' Although, in ascertaining the number of Children's allowances to be charged on every District, the number of Members was to be the sole principle of calculation, the Conference recommended, that in the partition of those allowances among the several Circuits of which a District was composed, while the number of Members was still to be considered as the leading principle on which the division should be made, the comparative circumstances of the Circuits, in other respects, should also be taken into account, and allowed to modify in particular cases the application of the general principle of numbers; 'so that the more burdened Circuits may, as much as possible, be relieved by others in the same District, and the whole quota for

each District be always raised within itself.' See 1819, vol. v., pp. 44-8.

In 1884, owing to the serious embarrassment of the Children's Fund, a change was made in the principle and method on which the Districts were assessed. The change is shown in the Resolutions of the Conference which will be found in the *Summary* on pp. 508-10. See *Minutes*, 1883, p. 248; 1884, pp. 271, 272.

The Children's Fund was for many years divided into two sections. If the Minutes for 1884 are consulted, it will be seen that separate assessments were then made for the maintenance and for the education of Ministers' Children (1884, pp. 227, 228). Out of the second section the deficiencies of what was then known as the Schools Fund were met. The Schools Fund provided educational allowances not only for the boys at Kingswood, and the girls at Queenswood and Trinity Hall Schools, but also for children 'educated at home'; the latter being the larger and the constantly increasing claimants on the Fund. The separate assessments on the Districts for the two sections of the Fund were continued until 1909, when the assessment for the Schools Fund ceased. In 1908 the amount to be raised in the Districts for the Schools Fund was £5,076 (1908, p. 613; 1909, p. 667).

In 1904 the Conference provisionally resolved that out of the total sum raised by the assessment for the Children's Fund an annual payment of £6,500 should be made by the Treasurers of the Children's Fund to the Treasurers of the Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Fund; and that in consideration of this payment the collection in the Classes for the Worn-out Ministers' Fund should cease to be made after the Con-

ference of 1905 (1904, pp. 117, 118). The judgement of the District Synods in their Representative Sessions was in favour of the provisional legislation of the Conference, and in 1905 that legislation was confirmed (1905, p. 99). A change was made in the title of the assessment; it was called 'The Children's and Auxiliary Funds Assessment' (1905, p. 603). In 1909 the Report of the Committee appointed to fix the sums to be raised during the next quinquennial period was adopted by the Conference. In addition to the amount to be raised for the Ministers' Children's Fund and the Worn-out Ministers' Fund, sums were allotted to the Theological Institution Fund and to the Connexional Fund. In 1909 the assessment on the Districts, which in 1908 stood at £36,615, amounted to £31,288 (1908, p. 613; 1909, p. 667). By Resolution of the Conference the assessment was in future to be known as 'The General Assessment' (1909, p. 29).

District Treasurer of Children's Maintenance Section of the General Assessment Fund

N.B.—The duties of a District Treasurer of the Children's Fund are as follows:

1. To keep an account with the Circuit Stewards of each Circuit in the District, and to receive or pay balances, as the case may be.

The Financial Secretary of the District shall furnish the District Treasurer, in September, with a statement in regard to each Circuit, giving the amount which it has to contribute to the Fund and the number of children in it who are chargeable upon the Fund, thus showing the balance to be claimed or paid in each case.

This balance is liable to alteration, during the year,

through the birth or death of children, all which cases the District Treasurer will meet, in his account with the Circuit Stewards, as they may arise.

2. To pay the allowances due to children of Supernumerary and Deceased Ministers in the District.

These payments are to be kept distinct from the Circuit accounts, and should be made direct, or through the Superintendents.

3. To make remittances quarterly to the General Treasurers on account of any balance due from the District.

4. Immediately after June 30 to fill in a Schedule provided for that purpose, so as to show all transactions on behalf of the Fund during the year then closed.

5. To forward the Schedule, together with the final remittance, if there be any due, to the General Treasurers early in July (*Order and Form*, pp. 22, 23).

Contributions by Circuits to General Assessment Fund

1. In future, the mode of assessment on the Districts shall be at varying rates per Minister, and such rates shall be determined by the number of Members in Society and financial ability,—other conditions, such as Grants made from the Home Mission Fund and the Connexional Fund to Districts on account of Circuits which are not self-supporting, etc., being taken into consideration.

2. In estimating the financial ability of a District, the following shall be taken into account: viz., Circuit Income, Seat Rents, Ordinary Contributions to our Funds, with Sunday School Income.

N.B.—Circuit Income shall be understood to include all sums administered by the Circuit Stewards, however

raised. Where Ministers' houses are Circuit property, a fair rental for such house shall be included. In considering the amount of Seat Rents, the interest paid on debts on Trust Estates shall be taken into account.

3. The District Synods shall arrange the incidence of the assessment on the Circuits, in accordance with the provisions contained in Resolutions 1 and 2.

4. All estimates of expenditure shall be made for periods of five years, and any assessment made by the Conference shall remain in force for a period of five years (1883, p. 248).

5. An assessment for the Children's Fund shall be made in respect of all Ministers in the Home Work, not being Supernumeraries, and all Preachers on Trial whose names are on the Stations; and all children of such Ministers shall be chargeable to that Fund.

6. In Circuits to which a single man has been appointed for a fifth year and upwards, the assessment in every such case shall be at the same rate as that for a married Minister.

N.B.—During the first four years the assessment shall be half the amount charged for a married Minister.

7. In future, for any additional Minister called out in any District, an additional charge shall be made upon the District to the amount of the average cost per Minister to the Connexion; such amount to be charged either wholly on the Circuit by which the Minister is called out, or in part also on the other Circuits in the District, as may be determined by the District Synod.

8. In the case of the increase of the number of Ministers in a District in any five-yearly period, the amount of the District assessment shall be increased by the amount of the assessment for each additional Minister

called out ; but there shall be no decrease in the amount of the District assessment during such period.

N.B.—In the cases of changes in the boundaries of Districts and Circuits, an equivalent change shall be made in the assessment (1884, pp. 271, 272 ; *Order and Form*, pp. 23, 24).

9. If the amount charged on a Circuit shall be more than is needed for the payment of the children of their own Preachers, the Circuit Stewards shall, immediately after every Quarterly Meeting, remit the *balance* to the District Treasurer (1819, vol. v., p. 45).

N.B.—The Connexional Allowance is £6 6s. per annum.

10. There shall be one assessment for all the Funds concerned, to be known as the 'General Assessment' (1904, p. 117 ; 1909, p. 28).

11. The claims of children of Supernumeraries and Deceased Ministers are met by the District Treasurer, in whose hands the list should be placed.

A Tabular Form is to be inserted in the District Records, and a copy given by the Secretary to the District Treasurer of the Children's Fund (*Order and Form*, p. 24).

For Tabular Form see *Order and Form*, p. 33. For South Wales Synod Assessment, see 1909, p. 29.

Sunday School Committee

For *Constitution* of Committee see p. 452.

1. The Conference resolves that whilst the District Synod Sunday School Committee has as its primary charge the care of the Sunday Schools in the District, it shall, as heretofore, take the oversight of Day School affairs (1908, pp. 115, 116).

N.B.—The District Synod Sunday School Com-

mittee is an official part of the District Sunday School Council, and represents the Synod in the Council and the Council in the Synods. See *Order and Form*, p. 25.

Ministerial Secretary of Committee

N.B.—District Synods only appoint the Ministerial Secretary of the District Synod Sunday School Committees. See p. 226.

For *District Sunday School Councils*, see pp. 226, 227.

Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge

1. The Conference directs that the Annual Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge shall be held on the last Saturday in October and on the first Saturday in March ; that the questions shall be prepared by the General Education Committee ; that the Examination shall be held either in the several Circuits by the Superintendent Ministers or their Colleagues, or at suitable places for Central District Examinations, as may be determined by the September District Synods, and agreed to by the respective School Committees ; and that the written answers shall be forwarded to the General Secretary, and shall be valued by a Central Board of Examiners to be elected by the General Committee.

2. The Conference recommends that, in connexion with the Central Examinations, Meetings of Teachers and Pupil Teachers be held under the direction of the Chairman of the District and the District Education Secretary (1890, p. 319).

Ministerial District Secretary of Wesley Guild

At each September Synod a Ministerial District

Guild Secretary shall be appointed (*Journal*, 1904; *Minutes*, 1905, p. 402).

The Circuit Guild Returns which are prepared for the Synod shall be submitted to and considered by the March Quarterly Meeting in the same way as other Departmental Returns (1907, p. 84). For the *Wesley Guild* see pp. 248-58.

Temperance Committee

For *Constitution* of Committee see pp. 452, 453.

1. The Temperance Committee shall prepare the Annual Report on the Temperance work in the District, and shall attend generally to the Temperance affairs of the District.

2. No arrangements shall be made by the District Temperance Committee, on behalf of Temperance Societies or Bands of Hope in any Circuit, without the consent of the Superintendent of that Circuit (1883, p. 242).

3. The Temperance Committee of each District shall take direct oversight of the Lord's Day Observance Question (1896, p. 331).

Local Preachers' Committee

For *Constitution* of Committee see p. 453. For *Duties and Functions* of the Committee, see pp. 97-99.

The Conference instructs the District Local Preachers' Committees to meet as soon as may be found practicable after the September Synod in order to consider and determine the work to be undertaken during the winter months on behalf of the Local Preachers in their Districts (1905, p. 92).

Sustentation Fund

When, in any District, a Sustentation Fund is formed, under the Connexional Regulations, the Treasurer shall be a Member of Society, shall be elected by the District Synod, and shall be, *ex officio*, a member of that Synod during the transaction of financial and statistical affairs (1875, vol. xix., 716, 717).

Class Leaders' Committee

For *Constitution* of Committee see p. 453.

District Probationers' Examination Secretary

For the Examination of Probationers see pp. 305-10.

Representative to the Stationing Committee

The Synod of every District in Great Britain shall elect one of its Ministers to form a Committee to draw up a Plan for the stationing of the Preachers in Great Britain (1791, vol. i., p. 256 ; *Order and Form*, p. 32).

The Minister who shall be the Representative of any District to the Stationing Committee shall be chosen at the September Synod by the united votes of the Ministers and Laymen who are members of the District Synod (1870, vol. xviii., p. 154 ; *Journal*, 1913).

N.B.—Neither in District Synods, nor at the Conference, have Probationers a right to vote. The election of a Representative [to the Stationing Committee] is not an exception (1840, vol. ix., p. 105).

Isle of Man District

It shall be a part of the business of the Financial District Synod of the Isle of Man District to call the

attention of Superintendents, and other Ministers who may be responsible, to the Regulations as to the duty of making certain Quarterly Returns to the Registrar-General of the Island, according to the provisions of the 'Dissenters' Marriage Act Amendment Act, 1885,' of the Isle of Man (1885, p. 285).

IV. MINOR DISTRICT SYNOD

Constitution

1. If any Minister be accused of immorality, the Minister accused, and his accuser, shall respectively choose two Ministers of their District, and the Chairman of the District shall also choose two Ministers from among those stationed in the District. And the Chairman of the District shall, with the six Ministers chosen as above, try the accused Minister ; and they shall have authority, if he be found guilty, to suspend him till the ensuing Conference, if they judge it expedient.

2. If there be any difference between the Ministers in a District, the respective parties shall choose two Ministers, and the Chairman of the District shall choose two other Ministers ; and the Chairman of the District, with the six Ministers so chosen, shall be final arbiters to determine the matters in dispute.

In both cases the Chairman shall have a casting voice, in case of an equality (1793, vol. i., pp. 289, 290 ; 1894, p. 217). See p. 515.

3. In the case of the Trial of an Appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent of a Circuit, the two members of the Minor District Synod added by the legislation of 1894 shall be nominated by the President of the Conference (1897, p. 241).

To be held in the District in which the Accused Person resides

In all cases in which the holding of a Minor District Synod is rendered necessary, except under the Regulation of 1840, such Synod shall be held in the District in which the accused party resides ; the accused and the accuser selecting respectively two Ministers from the said District, and the Chairman of the District other two ; the six thus chosen, together with the Chairman of the District, to constitute the Minor District Synod.

Should either party refuse or decline to choose two Ministers to act as members of the Meeting, the Chairman is empowered and directed to nominate them, so that the number required by Rule may be made up (1840, vol. ix., p. 94 ; 1844, vol. x., p. 91 ; 1870, vol. xviii., p. 154 ; 1894, p. 217).

Exceptional Case

Q. When charges are preferred against a Minister who has removed from the District in which the facts are alleged to have taken place, in what District shall the case be tried ?—A. When the accused Minister's Circuit is so distant from the locality in which the charges arise, that, in the judgement of the Chairman of his District, sanctioned by the concurrent opinion of the President, a serious hindrance would be caused to the attendance of witnesses, the case may be tried in a Minor or Regular District Synod of that District from which the charges are preferred ; but the proceedings shall be fully reported to the Chairman of the District in which the Preacher is stationed, to the May District Synod of that District, and to the President of the Conference (1840, vol. ix., p. 94).

Frivolous Charges

If in any case it appears to the Chairman of a District that a demand for a Minor District Synod rests upon charges which are frivolous or vexatious it is deemed to be within his discretionary power to decline to summon such a Meeting, subject, however, to an appeal to the District Synod, or to the Conference, on the part of any of the persons concerned (1876, vol. xx., pp. 156, 157).

Procedure in the case of an Accused Minister

See p. 446.

Appeals by Members of Society in Cases of Expulsion

See pp. 323, 324.

Minutes of Minor District Synods

See p. 457.

V. SPECIAL DISTRICT SYNOD**Authority of Chairman to Call Meeting of Synod**

The Chairman . . . shall have authority to call a Meeting of the Synod of his District, on any application of the Ministers or people, which appears to him to require it (1792, vol. i., p. 269).

President of the Conference

In order to render our Districts more effective, the President of the Conference shall have power . . . to assist at any District Synod, if applied to for that purpose, by the Chairman of the District, or by a majority of the Superintendents in such District. And he shall

have a right, if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit and to inquire into their affairs with respect to METHODISM, and, in union with the District Synod, redress any grievance (1797, vol. i., p. 395). See pp. 691, 692.

Original Constitution

That no Chairman may have cause to complain of the want of power, in cases which (according to his judgment) cannot be settled in the ordinary District Synod, he shall have authority to summon three of the nearest Superintendents to be incorporated with the District Synod, who shall have equal authority to vote, and settle everything till the Conference (1797, vol. i., p. 395).

Amended Constitution

In reference to the constitution of Special District Synods on whatever subject such Synods may hereafter be deemed necessary, and in order to render their decisions satisfactory to our people, the Conference resolves :

That instead of 'three of the nearest Superintendents' chosen by the Superintendent who calls the Synod, four Superintendents, or other Ministers, may be called in, if either party desire such assistance, and be incorporated with the Ministers stationed in the District. Of these two shall be chosen by each of the two parties concerned in the affairs to be settled by the Synod. The parties may severally make choice of Ministers in whom they have most confidence, from any District, without restriction as to contiguity ; and the President of the Conference, if he judge it expedient,

may attend and preside in all such assemblies, according to the Regulations of 1797. The right of appeal to the Conference from the decisions of this, as of all other inferior jurisdictions, is to be considered as reserved to all parties (1835, vol. vii., p. 583).

Authority to Remove Officers and Members

See pp. 39, 40.

VI. MIXED DISTRICT SYNOD

Constitution and Powers

See pp. 101-104.

N.B.—The Chapel Model Deed contains a clause which provides for the summoning of a Mixed District Synod in the case of a Minister accused of either immorality, erroneousness in Doctrine, or deficiency in ability, unless the question of such immorality, erroneousness in Doctrine, or deficiency in ability shall have been previously inquired into and disposed of, by the Preachers for the time being appointed by the said Conference to the Circuits of the District in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Trustees for the time being, and also to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Society Stewards and Leaders of Classes for the time being as aforesaid. See *The Chapel Model Deed*, pp. 711-13.

VII. FOREIGN DISTRICT SYNODS

N.B.—The *Book of Regulations* relating to Missionaries should be consulted, it being noted that the Mis-

sionary Committee reserves to itself the right to amend or alter any of its Regulations as may from time to time be advisable or necessary.

Chairmen and General Superintendents

See pp. 408, 420-25.

Change in Date of Synod

In order to ensure a sufficient supply of District Synod and Local Committee Appendices being available in time for these annual gatherings, the Requisition Form—specially supplied each year must be sent Home with the Minutes of the preceding Synod.

Any change in the date of the Synod should be immediately notified so that the Appendices may reach the District in ample time (*Book of Regulations*, p. 41).

Ministerial Missionaries and District Synods

See pp. 428, 429.

Lay Missionaries and District Synods

See p. 428.

Voting in Synods

See p. 418.

Disciplinary Questions

The character, conduct, &c., of Ministerial Missionaries are the subject of annual inquiry in the District Synod, as in the case of Ministers at Home (*Book of Regulations*, p. 8). For the Disciplinary Questions see *Summary*, pp. 454, 455.

Trial of Foreign Missionaries

The trial of any Missionary who may at any time be

accused of misconduct or of any departure from the Doctrines and Discipline of the Connexion, shall in all ordinary cases be left with the District Synod to which he may belong, according to the General Rules and Usages of the Methodist Conference. But the Conference may at any time recall any Missionary for any reason which it may deem sufficient; and in the intervals between the Annual Meetings of the Conference, the Committee in London shall possess and may exercise a similar power of recall, and of putting any Missionary so recalled upon his trial, either at the ensuing Conference, or, in a case requiring immediate decision, before a Special Committee (1885, p. 345).

For *Special Committee* see pp. 432, 433. For further Regulations concerning Discipline see pp. 428, 429, 431-34.

Probationers' Examinations

Missionaries who are Ministers on Trial are examined annually under the direction of the District Synod (or the Provincial Synod where such a body has been constituted) until they are received into Full Connexion with the Conference (*Book of Regulations*, p. 14).

Preachers on Trial returning from the Mission Field

See p. 419.

District Funds

In all permanent Deposits and Investments of Missionary Funds abroad, the name of one of the Treasurers of the Society must be associated with the name of a Missionary as holders of the said Funds (*Book of Regulations*, p. 40).

Accounts

Every Superintendent of a Circuit or an Institution shall keep such accounts as may be directed by the Local Committee or the Synod, and shall present them annually for audit (*Book of Regulations*, p. 21).

For Regulations relating to Accounts see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 21-3, 37-40, also *Summary*, pp. 425, 426.

Property

All property acquired for Missionary purposes, whether by purchase or gift, must, if the law of the country permits, be vested in the Wesleyan Methodist Trust Association, unless the consent of the General Committee is obtained to vest it in local Trustees (*Book of Regulations*, p. 14). See also in same Book, pp. 14, 15. For *Plant* see pp. 40, 41.

Furlough

Requests for Furlough under the Rules must ordinarily be made through the Local Committee or Synod (*Book of Regulations*, p. 24).

For Rules relating to Furlough see *Book of Regulations*, pp. 24-33.

See *Summary*, pp. 430, 431.

New Legislation

All Resolutions of both Sessions of the Conference involving new legislation, and having reference to Foreign Missions, shall be submitted to the Foreign Synods affected thereby for their opinion before being confirmed by the Conference (1896, p. 237).

Suggestions to Conference

In the business of the Missionary Committee, year by

year, all Suggestions to the Conference from the Foreign District Synods shall be reported, with the recommendation of the Committee upon each (*Journal*, 1884).

Local Preachers from Abroad

In the case of a Local Preacher returning from a Mission Station where neither a Circuit Local Preachers' Meeting nor a Circuit Quarterly Meeting is duly constituted, the Certificate of the District Synod shall be accepted in place of the Certificate of the Circuit Superintendent (1896, p. 332).

District Minutes

District Minutes should be dispatched as early as possible after the meetings of the District Synod and Local Committee, and should be accompanied by the respective Appendices (*Book of Regulations*, pp. 41, 42).

Annual Report

N.B.—Arrangements should be made at the Synod for ample and proper material for the Society's Annual Report being sent Home as soon as possible after the District Synod. See *Book of Regulations*, p. 42.

VIII. COURTS OF SUPERIOR JURISDICTION IN THE MISSION FIELD

1. Courts of Superior Jurisdiction shall be constituted in such manner and for such Districts or Groups of Districts as the Conference may from time to time direct.
2. These Courts shall hear all appeals from the decisions of the District Synods concerning Discipline.
3. These Courts shall investigate and decide all

questions of fact, and the certified Records of the Courts shall be taken as conclusive evidence of what the facts are: subject always to the right of the Conference, if new and material evidence is produced, to direct a new trial.

4. The decisions of these Courts as to penalty shall be final, except that:

(1) On questions of judicial procedure, of the interpretation of law, or the definition of Doctrine, an appeal shall lie to the Conference.

(2) In the case of an ordained Minister a sentence of expulsion, or loss of one or more years in ministerial standing, shall be liable to revision by the Conference.

(3) Any similar sentence in the case of a Preacher on Trial sent out from England shall be liable to revision by the Conference, but only as affecting his relation to the Home Work.

5. Provided always:

(1) That no appeal shall be allowed to the Conference, unless the case has first been presented to the Superior Court.

(2) That in every case in which there is an appeal to the Conference from the decision of the Superior Court or any request for revision by the Conference, it shall be sent to the Secretary of the Conference; but notice thereof shall be given to the Chairman of the Superior Court, and a copy of the appeal or request placed in his hands, within six weeks after the decision of the Court. The said copy shall be forthwith forwarded by the Chairman to the General Secretaries of the Missionary Society, for the consideration of the Missionary Discipline Committee,

and that Committee shall report thereon to the next Conference.

6. Provided further that every Minister or Preacher on Trial shall be subject to the Provincial and District Synods within the area of whose jurisdiction he is for the time being appointed to labour.

Constitution

1. Courts of Superior Jurisdiction for the Ceylon, South India, and North India Provincial areas shall be constituted as follows:—

(i.) Each Court shall consist of twenty members, of whom ten shall be Missionaries from England, including Chairmen of Districts *ex officio*, and ten Ministers accepted for service in Ceylon or India respectively.

(ii.) The members, exclusive of the Chairman of Districts, shall be elected by the several District Synods; and the numbers to be elected by each Synod shall be determined from time to time by the Missionary Committee of Discipline.

2. All elections shall be by the united vote of the European and other Ministers.

3. Probationers shall not be eligible as Representatives.

4. Each Court of Superior Jurisdiction shall elect its own Chairman and Secretary (1895, pp. 219, 220; *Journal*, 1905; *Minutes*, 1906, p. 15).

Provincial Synods and Candidates

In those areas of the Mission Field in which Provincial Synods have been established, the recommendation of the Provincial Synod shall be required—

(i.) Before a Candidate for the Ministry from a

District within the Provincial area is received on Trial by the Conference.

(ii.) Before a Candidate for admission into Full Connexion from a District within the Provincial area is received into Full Connexion with the Conference (*Journal*, 1905 ; *Minutes*, 1906, p. 15).

THE WELSH WESLEYAN METHODIST ASSEMBLY

Constitution

The Assembly shall consist :

1. Of *ex-officio* members : viz., the President of the Conference ; the President and Secretary of the Assembly ; the Connexional Secretary of the Home Mission Fund ; the Connexional Chapel Secretary ; one additional Minister and one Layman to represent the Conference ; the Ex-President of the Assembly ; the President Elect ; Chairmen and Financial Secretaries of each of the three Welsh Districts ; the Welsh Book Steward ; the Ministerial Secretaries of the Chapel Funds ; the Ministerial Secretaries of the Home Mission Funds ; the General Welsh Secretary of Foreign Missions ; the General Secretary of Sunday Schools ; the Secretary of the Training of Candidates' Fund ; the General Secretary for Temperance, and the Methodist Union for Social Service ; the Assembly Treasurer ; and one Minister and one Layman to represent the London (Welsh), while it remains outside the Welsh Districts.

2. Of elected members : viz., ten Ministers and twelve Laymen from each of the three Welsh Districts, to be elected by Ministers and Laymen voting together ; and four Laymen to be elected by each of the Districts

for a period of four years. One in each District to retire every year.

Expenses of Representatives

The Districts shall make their own arrangements for defraying the expenses of their Representatives.

Time of Meeting

The Assembly shall meet in June.

The President of the Conference

The President of the Conference shall attend and preside over the Assembly.

President of the Assembly

The Assembly shall nominate a Minister in the Welsh Work to be its President, and to preside in the absence of the President of the Conference—the nomination to take place at the previous Assembly. The principal functions connected with the Presidency are the delivery of an Inaugural Address, and of the Charge to the newly ordained Ministers; and to preside over all Assembly Committees during his year of office. If by any circumstances the appointed Minister be prevented from fulfilling his duties, the Assembly shall elect a Minister, who shall immediately enter into office.

The Representative Session

The Assembly, at this Session, shall consider :

1. The state of the Work of God throughout the Principality.
2. The cause of Foreign Missions, and devise means for the promotion of its interests.

3. The order of Local Preachers. The Assembly shall arrange means, as far as possible, to increase the number of Preachers, and to assist in their training.

4. The affairs of the Welsh Book Room.

5. The Training of Candidates for the Ministry in connexion with the Colleges of the Welsh University.

6. Temperance, Social Purity, Sabbath Observance, and other matters of a similar character; and how to devise means of co-operation in National movements which tend to uplift and purify the Principality.

7. The Annual Reports of the Chapel and Home Mission Funds, in the three Districts; with any other Reports.

8. The Obituaries of those Ministers who have died during the year.

N.B.—An address shall be prepared emphasizing the state and characteristics of Christian life and work in the Principality.

An Afternoon Sitting, in which the proceedings shall be conducted in Welsh, may be arranged to discuss some matter or matters of importance particularly connected with the work in Wales.

The Pastoral Session

The work appointed for this Session shall be :

1. The Stationing of Ministers, and the preparation of a First Draft to be presented to the Connexional Stationing Committee.

(i) The President and Secretary of the Assembly, together with the three Chairmen, shall prepare a Preliminary Draft for the use of the Assembly Stationing Committee.

(ii) A Committee consisting of the President and

Secretary of the Assembly, the three Chairmen, the three Financial Secretaries, together with all Welsh Ministers attending Conference as Representatives of their Districts, shall arrange every question of dispute in connexion with Stationing which may arise between the Assembly and Conference and also at Conference.

2. Candidates for the Ministry. These shall appear before the Assembly for examination. A full Report of their previous work shall be presented, and marks shall be sent on from the Assembly to the July Committee. The expenses incurred by the Candidates shall be paid. See p. 274.

3. The Report of the Examination of the Preachers on Trial, from year to year, and a judgement of their merit shall be pronounced.

4. Candidates for Ordination. These shall be publicly examined and ordained at the Assembly. They shall be received into Full Connexion at the ensuing Conference. See p. 314.

N.B.—I. In 1893 the Conference directed that Bibles in the Welsh language should be presented at the Ordination of Candidates employed in the Welsh Work (1893, p. 228).

2. In 1909, by way of interpreting the functions of the Welsh Assembly, the Conference declared that it has power to arrest the Ordination of any Candidate for Ordination in the Welsh Districts, but not to proceed to Ordination in cases where the Welsh Synods decline to recommend (1909, p. 360).

Suggestions to Conference

The Assembly, both in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions, shall consider all Memorials and

Suggestions to Conference from the Synods, as well as Provisional Legislation. The Assembly itself may also send Memorials and make Suggestions.

President and Secretary of the Assembly and the Conference

The Conference resolves that the President and Secretary of the Welsh Assembly shall be *ex-officio* members of the Conference on condition that this arrangement makes no difference in the allocation of Ministers to the Welsh Districts (1909, p. 116).

Official Expenses of Assembly

The official expenses of the Assembly shall be defrayed by the Welsh Book Room (1898, pp. 364, 491-3; 1908, pp. 112, 113, 356, 561-4; 1909, p. 116).



THE CONFERENCE

‘The Conference has been the supreme legislative and executive Body since the death of Mr. Wesley.’—*The Vice-Chancellor’s Judgement in Dr. Warren’s Case.*

I. THE YEARLY CONFERENCE OF THE PEOPLE CALLED METHODISTS

Definition

John Wesley doth . . . declare that the Conference of the people called Methodists in London, Bristol, or Leeds, ever since there hath been any Yearly Conference of the said people called Methodists in any of the said places, hath always heretofore consisted of the Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, commonly called Methodist Preachers, in connexion with and under the care of the said John Wesley, whom he hath thought expedient year after year to summons to meet him in one or other of the said places of London, Bristol, or Leeds, to advise with them for the promotion of the Gospel of Christ, to appoint the said persons so summoned, and the other Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, also in connexion with and under the care of the said John Wesley, not summoned to the said Yearly Conference, to the use and enjoyment of the said Chapels and premises so given and conveyed upon trust for the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should appoint during his life as aforesaid, and for the expulsion of unworthy and admission of new persons under his care and into his Connexion to be Preachers and Expounders as aforesaid, and also of other persons upon Trial for the like purposes, the names of all

which persons so summoned by the said John Wesley, the persons appointed, with the Chapels and premises to which they were so appointed, together with the duration of such appointments, and of those expelled or admitted into Connexion or upon Trial, with all other matters transacted and done at the said Yearly Conference, have year by year been printed and published under the title of Minutes of Conference; and these presents further witness, and the said John Wesley doth hereby avouch and further declare, that the several persons hereinafter named, to wit [*here follow the names and descriptions of one hundred persons*], being Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word under the care and in connexion with the said John Wesley, have been and now are and do on the day of the date hereof constitute the Members of the said Conference according to the true intent and meaning of the said several gifts and conveyances wherein the words Conference of the people called Methodists are mentioned and contained, and that the said several persons before named and their successors for ever, to be chosen as hereafter mentioned, are and shall for ever be construed, taken and be the Conference of the people called Methodists. . . . (*The Deed of Declaration*). See pp. 660, 661.

John Wesley's Letter to the Conference

TO THE METHODIST CONFERENCE

Chester, April 7, 1785.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,—Some of our Travelling Preachers have expressed a fear that, after my decease, you would exclude them either from preaching in connexion with you or from some other privileges which they now enjoy. I know no other way to prevent any

such inconvenience than to leave these, my last words, with you.

I beseech you, by the mercies of God, that you never avail yourselves of the Deed of Declaration, to assume any superiority over your Brethren ; but let all things go on, among those Itinerants who choose to remain together, exactly in the same manner as when I was with you, so far as circumstances will permit.

In particular, I beseech you, if you ever loved me, and if you now love God and your Brethren, to have no respect of persons in stationing the Preachers, in choosing children for Kingswood School, in disposing of the Yearly Contribution and the Preachers' Fund, or any other public money. But do all things with a single eye, as I have done from the beginning. Go on thus, doing all things without prejudice or partiality, and God will be with you even to the end.

JOHN WESLEY.

(1791, vol. i., pp. 242, 243).

Resolution of the Conference on John Wesley's Letter

The Conference have unanimously resolved : That all the Preachers who are in Full Connexion with them shall enjoy every privilege that the members of the Conference enjoy, agreeably to the above-written Letter of our venerable deceased Father in the Gospel, except in voting for the President and Secretary (*Journal*, 1791 ; 1794 ; *Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., p. 696). See p. 627.

Lay Representation in the Conference

For *Scheme of Lay Representation in the Conference*, see pp. 552-57, 666-68.

Resolution of the Conference on Lay Representation

The Conference records its judgement that the extension of the influence and co-operation of the Laity in accordance with the preceding Resolution [on Lay Representation in the Conference] is not in any way inconsistent with the integrity and efficiency of the Pastoral office, the inviolability of the Connexional principle, the authority of the District Synods, or any of the essential principles of Wesleyan Methodism. The Conference also records its satisfaction that the mixed Committee unanimously and cordially declared their adherence to, and their fixed purpose to uphold, these essential principles, and the Conference relies with full confidence upon this declaration (1876, vol. xx., p. 148). See pp. 318, 443.

Subjects exclusively within the province of the Pastoral Session

See 1876, vol. xx., pp. 148, 149 ; 1877, vol. xx., pp. 422, 423. See also pp. 668, 669.

Subjects exclusively within the province of the Representative Session

See 1876, vol. xx., pp. 147, 148 ; 1877, vol. xx., p. 423. See also pp. 669, 670.

Relation of the Representative to the Pastoral Session

I. If any Resolutions shall be adopted by the Representative and Pastoral Sessions respectively, which, in the judgement of the President, are in conflict with each other, such Resolutions shall not be confirmed by the Legal Conference ; but shall be reported accordingly to the respective Sessions of the next Conference (1889, p. 291).

2. The Conference in its Pastoral Session shall have power to consider and decide . . . all propositions for the calling out of additional Ministers which shall have received the sanction of the Conference in its Representative Session, so far as questions of finance are concerned (1877, vol. xx., p. 423 ; 1901, p. 507).

3. The consideration and determination of all questions raised by any Resolutions of District Synods, or by Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings, or otherwise, shall come within the province of the Conference in its Pastoral or its Representative Session according to the subject-matter thereof respectively.

4. In all cases in which there may be any doubt as to the Session of the Conference to which a matter belongs, the President shall decide (1877, vol. xx., p. 424 ; 1901, p. 507).

SUNDRY ADVICES TO THE PREACHERS

1. Be tender of the character of every Brother, but keep at the utmost distance from countenancing sin.

2. Say nothing in the Conference but what is strictly necessary and to the point in hand.

3. If accused by any one, remember recrimination is no acquittance ; therefore avoid it.

4. Beware of impatience of contradiction ; be firm, but be open to conviction. The cause is God's, and He needs not the hands of an Uzzah to support the ark. The being too tenacious of a point, because you brought it forward, is only feeding self. Be quite easy if a majority decide against you.

5. Use no craft or guile to gain a point. Genuine simplicity will always support itself. But there is no need always to say all you know or think.

6. Beware of too much confidence in your own abilities, and never despise an opponent.

7. Avoid all lightness of spirit, even what would be innocent anywhere else. 'Thou God seest me' (*Form of Discipline, Minutes*, vol. i., pp. 705, 706).

PRELIMINARY ARRANGEMENTS

Attendance of Ministers at Conference

1. The District Synods respectively shall have the right of fixing upon the Preachers who are to attend the Conference; subject, however, to the following limitations: namely—

(1) The expenses of going to and from the Conference shall be defrayed by the Circuits, or by the Preachers themselves.

(2) Let not all the Preachers from any Circuit ever come to the Conference; except from within such a distance of the place where it is held as will admit of their supplying their appointments on the Lord's Days; or except, in very special cases, the District Synod shall unanimously decide that all the Brethren in any Circuit ought to attend.

(3) Let those who have leave to attend set out as late, and return as soon, as possible.

(4) The Preachers on Trial shall not attend the Conference, unless sent for, or unless stationed within such a distance of the place where it is held as will admit of supplying their appointments on the Lord's Day.

(5) Nothing in these Rules shall be so construed as to prevent those Preachers from attending the Conference against whom there lies any accusation

or complaint (1809, vol. iii., pp. 90, 91). See *Ministers under Suspension*, p. 456.

2. Considering that the Rule which requires that all the Ministers of a Circuit shall not attend the Conference may stand unfairly in the way of some who might otherwise obtain the permission of the District Synod, more especially of Ministers appointed to solitary Stations, the Conference resolves that the Rule shall be so far modified as that any Minister shall be eligible for permission to attend who shall satisfy the District Synod that due provision shall be made for the Ministerial and Pastoral work of the Circuit during his absence (1878, p. 188).

3. Every Chairman is directed to present to the President, during the first week of the Conference, a list of any Preachers in his District who shall have come to the Conference in violation of these Rules, or without the consent of the District Synod (1818, vol. iv., p. 455).

4. The attention of the District Synods is directed to the propriety of limiting the practice of Brethren dividing the time with one another, such practice having been strongly objected to by many of the friends, and greatly embarrassing the provision for Ministers at the Conference.

5. In all cases in which Ministers obtain permission to attend the Conference on the plea of providing for themselves, the places where they intend to stay must be specified ; and it shall be within the power of the Conference Arrangements Committee to refuse to recognize such claims, if they interfere with provision which would otherwise be available (*Journal*, 1865).

6. No Minister shall be suffered to come to Conference on the plea of providing for himself unless he intend

to be located at an Hotel, or Boarding House, with the proviso that, in any cases which may be allowed by the District Synods as exceptional, the Committee for making the Conference Arrangements shall exercise a discretionary power to relax the Rule.

7. Candidates for Ordination shall not be allowed to divide the time with other Brethren (*Journal*, 1867).

8. In the event of any Minister dying or becoming disabled between the District Synod and the Conference, for whom a Conference Home is provided, or who may have been elected as a Representative, the vacant place shall be filled up by the Minister standing next on the list at the District election (1889, p. 205). See p. 464.

Conference Arrangements Committee

1. The Conference appoints its Secretary to be, year by year, an *ex-officio* member of the Arrangements Committee for the next Conference.

2. The Conference directs the Arrangements Committee to consult the President for the year in relation to the Public Meetings proposed to be held in connexion with the Conference (1900, p. 341).

The Conference Plan

The Superintendents of those Circuits in which the Conference may, from year to year, assemble, shall, with the previous approbation of the President, complete and print, not later than June 24 in each year, a Plan of the order of preaching in the principal Chapels during the Session of the Conference; and shall also, on or before the above date, send to every person whom they have appointed to preach in those Chapels a copy of the Conference Plan.

Every Minister so appointed is responsible to the Conference for the fulfilment of his appointment (1827, vol. vi., p. 291).

Sermons by the President and the Ex-President

1. The President shall be expected to preach in the forenoon of the first Sunday after the commencement of the Conference, and the Ex-President in the evening of that day ; but the Sermons shall not, in future, be designated official Sermons (*Journal*, 1821 ; 1873 ; *Minutes*, 1890, pp. 213, 426).

2. The Morning Service shall be read in the Chapel in which the Conference is assembled when the Sermon of the President is delivered (1840, vol. ix., p. 105).

The Conference Platform and Tribune

The Conference directs that a small rostrum or tribune shall be placed, when necessary, in front of the Platform, from which those who desire to address the Conference may speak. The Conference also directs that the Platform be brought within as small a compass as possible (1887, pp. 192, 193 ; 1892, pp. 312, 313 ; 1909, p. 115).

II. THE STATIONING COMMITTEE

Constitution

1. The Synod of every District in Great Britain shall elect one of their Body to form a Committee to draw up a Plan for the stationing of the Preachers in Great Britain (1791, vol. i., p. 256).

The Minister who shall be the Representative of any District to the Stationing Committee shall be chosen at

the September Synod by the united votes of the Ministers and Laymen who are members of the District Synod (1870, vol. xviii., p. 154 ; *Journal*, 1913).

N.B.—Preachers on Trial have no right to vote. See p. 513.

2. As the President and Secretary for the time being are *ex-officio* members of the Stationing Committee, they shall in future attend it only in their public and official character as persons especially charged with the general interests of the whole Connexion ; and neither of them shall be considered eligible to be sent by any particular District as its local Representative (1824, vol. v., p. 520).

3. The President and Secretary of the preceding Conference, having attended the meetings of the Stationing Committee at their commencement, shall continue to be official members of it during the whole of its sittings for that year ; even when it may be necessary, for the completion of its business, that it should occasionally assemble after the election of the new President or Secretary shall have taken place (1824, vol. v., p. 520 ; 1888, p. 316).

4. One of the General Secretaries of our Missions shall be, from year to year, a member of the Stationing Committee (1823, vol. v., p. 426).

5. Each Branch of the Theological Institution shall be authorized to send its own Representative of the Students who may be recommended to the Conference for appointment to Circuits (*Journal*, 1837 ; 1845).

The Representative of each Branch of the Institution to the Stationing Committee shall advise as to the appointment to Circuits of Students who have completed their term in the College he represents, and especially as to the appointment of any Student of the first or second

year, should it be found necessary to make such an appointment (1899, p. 363).

6. A Representative of the Home Missionary Committee shall be a member of the Stationing Committee (*Journal*, 1861).

7. One of the Assistant Secretaries of the Conference shall attend the Stationing Committee, to assist the Secretary ; but he shall not be considered a member of the Committee (*Journal*, 1857).

Preparations for the Committee

1. The Secretary of the Conference shall, early in December of each year, supply every Representative of a District with a Schedule on which he shall be required, immediately after the December Quarterly Meeting, to enter the names of all Ministers in the District removing at the ensuing Conference, and for whom no provisional arrangement has been made ; also the Circuits in which there is any vacancy not provisionally supplied. Early in January the Secretary of the Conference shall forward to every Representative a complete list compiled from the information received (*Journal*, 1912).

2. Not later than the first week in May, each Representative of a District shall be furnished by the Secretary of the Conference with a list of all Ministers for whom arrangements have not been made, and of all Circuits in like case ; the information necessary to compile this list being sent by the Representative to the Secretary of the Conference not later than April 20 ; such lists to contain complete information, and to be regarded as private and confidential (*Journal*, 1907).

3. The Representative of each District shall send to the Secretary of the Conference, not later than June 10

in each year, upon a prepared Schedule, complete lists of—

(a) The invitations accepted by Ministers in his District ;

(b) The arrangements provisionally made for the appointment of Ministers to Circuits in his District ; and

(c) All Ministers in his District for whom no arrangement has been made.

(d) All Ministers for whom an extended appointment is requested.

4. A list of all Ministers to be transferred from the Foreign to the Home Stations shall, at the same time, be furnished by the Missionary Secretaries to the Secretary of the Conference.

5. From these lists the Secretary of the Conference shall compile, and cause to be printed in a convenient form for use in the Stationing Committee, a Preliminary Draft of Stations embodying all arrangements thus provisionally made ; and also a separate list of all Ministers for whom provisional arrangements have not been made ; and a copy of these shall be furnished to each member of the Stationing Committee, in London, on the Monday before the meeting of that Committee (*Journal*, 1907).

Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly

See pp. 527, 528.

Times of Meeting

1. Previously to each Conference, the Stationing Committee shall meet in London in connexion with the Annual Meeting of the Home Mission Committee, and shall prepare and issue the First Draft of the Stations of Ministers. The Committee shall meet again in the Con-

ference Town on the Tuesday morning preceding the Representative Session and on the Saturday during the Pastoral Session (*Order and Form of the Business of the Conference, Minutes*, 1889, pp. 291, 292, 294, 297 ; 1906, p. 528 ; 1914, p. 635).

2. After the first reading of the Stations, the Committee shall, when it is deemed expedient, retire for the further consideration of the Stations (1888, p. 317).

Regulations concerning the Stationing Committee

1. The Stationing Committee shall, from year to year, hold its first Session in London.

2. The appointments made shall not, as heretofore, be printed day by day.

3. The Stations shall be printed in the Conference Town.

4. The First Draft of Stations shall be an absolutely confidential document until the Representatives' copies are ready for the post.

5. Should any Minister be officially reported as under Discipline and suspended until the Conference, his name shall not appear on the First Draft of Stations.

6. The name of any Minister for whom no Circuit can be found by the Stationing Committee shall be omitted from the First Draft of Stations, a report being presented by the Stationing Committee to the Conference as to the reasons for such action. The Conference shall, in all such cases, on the first day of the Pastoral Session, appoint a special Committee to consider and report to the Conference. Notification of the action of the Stationing Committee shall be given to the Minister for whom no Circuit can be found, and the regulation of the Conference

relating to the right of appeal in such cases shall be observed. See pp. 374, 375.

7. Probationers on the List of Reserve and Students leaving the Institution, who are eligible for appointment, shall be entitled to a copy of the First Draft and of the Final Draft of Stations.

8. Each Representative shall send to the Secretary of the Conference Arrangements Committee two sets of addressed wrappers, for the First and the Final Draft respectively, for the Ministers and Circuit Stewards in his District, and for six other Laymen—members of the District Synod; the cost of which shall be refunded by the Conference Arrangements Committee (1888, p. 317; 1909, pp. 361, 362; 1914, pp. 404, 405).

Expediting Business

Q. What can be done to expedite the business of stationing the Preachers?

A.—I. Let not the District Synods interfere with the Stations of the Preachers.

2. Let no letters concerning Stations be in the least degree regarded but such as come from the majorities of regular Quarterly Meetings.

N.B.—Letters which may be sent from Committees shall not be attended to, any more than those from individuals.

3. Let the letters which are sent from the Quarterly Meetings be carefully read and considered, first by the Stationing Committee, and then by the Conference (1805, vol. ii., p. 289).

Senior Ministers

The aged Preachers shall be provided with Circuits before any of the others (1800, vol. ii., p. 57). See p. 320.

Short Removals

In stationing the Preachers let particular care be taken that the removals be as short as possible ; much money having, we fear, been sometimes needlessly expended in removing families to a greater distance than was either necessary or expedient from the place of their last appointment (1805, vol. ii., p. 291).

Removal Expenses of an Invited Minister

See p. 153.

Division of Circuits

The Stationing Committee is allowed to adopt, provisionally, into its Plan all those proposed divisions of Circuits which are sanctioned by the District Synods, in order that suitable Superintendents may be found for the new Circuits ; but such proposed divisions shall be brought before the Conference by a special Report, and allowed or rejected before the Stations are considered (1813, vol. iii., p. 387).

Numbering of Circuits and Stations

All Stations appearing in the *Minutes* shall be numbered (1886, p. 204 ; 1909, p. 361).

Desirable that Superintendents should be Ministers in Full Connexion

See p. 133.

Additional Preachers

All proposals for employing an additional Preacher in any Circuit shall be considered and allowed in full Conference before such Preacher be entered on the Plan of Stations (1813, vol. iii., p. 387). See pp. 155-57.

Term of Appointment to a Circuit

See pp. 166, 663, 664.

Reappointments to Circuits

See p. 168.

Appointments beyond the Term of Three Years

See p. 167.

Supplies in relation to a Third Year Appointment

See p. 167.

Claims of Conference Towns

See p. 168.

Postal Addresses

The Postal Address of each Minister shall be inserted in the Stations, in a parenthesis, immediately after his name, in every case in which the name of his Circuit is not a sufficient Postal Address (*Journal*, 1857).

University Degrees

1. For the future, no Minister shall be entitled to have his Degree printed in the *Minutes* until the approval of the Probationers' Examination Committee has been obtained.

2. In the case of every Degree printed in the *Minutes*, the source of the Degree shall be stated except in the case of that of Doctor in Divinity received before the Conference of 1895.

3. In addition to the statement of the sources of Degrees the prefix (*Hon.*) shall be put before all British

or Foreign Degrees in Arts, Law, and Science, if they be Honorary. In future Honorary Degrees shall only be recognized if they proceed from Corporations which have a full University status (1903, pp. 357, 358).

4. Degrees obtained from a Foreign University, by means of Examinations conducted in this country, shall not be printed in the *Minutes* (1893, pp. 227, 228 ; 1895, p. 225).

5. In view of the extension of University facilities for *ad eundem* Degrees, such Degrees shall not in future be printed in the *Minutes* (*Journal*, 1906).

Welsh Stations

N.B.—In its Pastoral Session the Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly considers the stationing of Ministers of the Welsh Districts, and prepares a First Draft to be presented to the Stationing Committee of the Conference (1898, p. 493 ; 1908, p. 563). See pp. 527, 528.

Foreign Stations

The Foreign Stations shall be printed in the First Draft of the Stations (*Journal*, 1859).

Stations in the Conference

1. The Stations shall be presented twice in the Conference, for a First and a Final Reading.

2. In the First Reading of the Stations, the names of the Ministers shall not be read out one by one, but the Secretary shall call the names of the Circuits, and any member of the Conference shall be at liberty to question, or raise a discussion upon, any proposed appointment. In the Final Reading, the usage shall be observed of making changes only when all parties are agreed (1892, p. 218).

Probationers and the Sacraments

The Conference directs the Stationing Committee, year by year, to prepare a list of appointments in which permission should be granted to Probationers to administer the Sacraments. In cases of special emergency application for a dispensation shall be made to the President of the Conference, through the Chairman of the District (1900, p. 230 ; 1902, p. 359). See pp. 47-49.

III. THE CONFERENCE**Admission to the Conference Chapel**

The deliberations of the Conference, when consisting of Ministers and Laymen, shall be confined to the duly appointed members of that Conference ; but any Minister permitted by the District Synod to attend the Conference when composed of Ministers only, may be present during the Sessions of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

In regard to other persons, not being either Representatives or Ministers attending the Pastoral Session, admission shall be regulated as follows :

A Committee consisting of the President and the Secretary of the Conference, with three other Ministers and three Laymen, shall be annually appointed by the preceding Conference, to which shall be entrusted the decision in all cases of application for admission upon the following lines :

1. One hundred Tickets, bearing the signature of the President, admitting to the gallery of the Conference Chapel during all the sittings of the Representative Session, shall be reserved for members of Connexional

Committees, and for persons who state in writing that they desire to be present regularly throughout the week.

2. To meet the case of those who desire only to attend occasionally, day-Tickets, differently coloured for each day, shall be provided ; the number of which shall be regulated by the available space in the Conference Chapel.

3. Each Ticket, of either sort, shall bear the name of the holder and shall not be transferable.

The foregoing Regulations shall apply equally to men and women (1893, p. 323). See pp. 556, 571.

Conference Reporting

1. Reporters, appointed by the Newspapers or the News Agencies, shall be admitted to the Representative and Conjoint Sessions of the Conference.

2. Suitable seats shall be allocated to them by the Conference Committee of Arrangements.

3. Special Tickets of admission shall be issued to the Representatives of Newspapers and News Agencies, so far as the space at disposal will allow. These Tickets shall contain the dates from and to which the Tickets are available ; and shall have printed upon them the following words : ' This Ticket is issued on the express condition that the attendance of Reporters shall be suspended at any time when the President may so direct.'

4. Applications for such Tickets shall be made to the Chairman of the Conference Arrangements Committee (1890, p. 296).

5. In view of the increasing importance of giving to the public full and correct reports of the proceedings of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, it is an instruction to future Conference Committees to provide, as far as

possible, suitable and adequate accommodation for the Representatives of the Press (1897, p. 344). See *Minutes*, 1914, p. 104.

THE REPRESENTATIVE SESSION

Constitution

The Conference, when considering such matters as are hereinafter declared to be within the province of Ministers and Laymen, acting conjointly, shall consist of the President of the Conference and of 300 Ministers and 300 Laymen.

1. The Ministerial members of the Conference, when the Lay Representatives are present, shall be, in addition to the President and all other members of the Legal Conference for the time being who shall have declared at the May Meeting of the District Synod their intention to attend the Conference :

- (i) Any Assistant Secretary of the Conference who is not a member of the Legal Conference.
- (ii) All Chairmen of Districts in Great Britain who are not members of the Legal Conference.
- (iii) Eight Ministers in Full Connexion, stationed in Foreign Districts, who may be in England at the time of the sitting of the Conference, to be chosen by the Missionary Committee.
- (iv) If in any year any Department would not, in the judgement of the Conference, be adequately represented by members of the Legal Conference, provision shall be made for the Ministerial Representation of such Department by the preceding Conference when consisting of Ministers only.

N.B.—1. The President and Secretary of the Welsh Assembly are *ex-officio* members of the Conference on condition that this arrangement makes no difference to the allocation of Ministers to the Welsh Districts (1909, p. 116).

2. The Conference in its Pastoral Session elects the Precentor, the Convener of Scrutineers, and the Assistant Journal Secretary, if they are not members of the Legal Conference, as members of the succeeding Conference. See 1914, p. 379.

(v) The remaining Ministerial members of the Conference, when composed of Ministers and Laymen, shall be elected at the Annual Meetings in May of the District Synods in Great Britain, as follows:

The Ministerial members of each District Synod shall elect by ballot, after nomination, from among the whole number of Ministers in any District who may express their desire to attend the Conference, so many Ministers as were allocated by the preceding Conference to represent the District in the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen (1886, p. 199; 1890, p. 324).

N.B.—The newly elected members of the Legal Conference in each year shall be members of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

2. No Layman shall be eligible as a Representative, whether elected annually by the Conference or by the May Meeting of the District Synod, unless he be a Member of Society of five years' continuous standing, and, at the time of his election by the Conference or nomination in the District Synod, a holder of office as a Trustee of Connexional Property, a member of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or a member of a District Synod.

Any Layman nominated in a District Synod must be a Member of Society in some Circuit within that District. Duly qualified and elected women shall be eligible as Lay Representatives to the Conference.

- (i) One-fifth of the Lay Representatives shall be elected annually by the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen. This number shall in all cases include the Lay Treasurers for the time being of the following General Connexional Funds, namely, the Missionary Society, the General Chapel Fund, the Ministers' Children's Fund in both its sections, the Home Mission Fund, the Theological Institution Fund, the Education Fund, the Auxiliary Fund, the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, the Extension of Methodism Fund, the National Children's Home and Orphanage, the London Mission, the Temperance Committee, the Local Preachers' Committee, and the Sunday School Department.

N.B.—In future appointments not more than one Lay Treasurer of any Connexional Fund shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Representative Session of the Conference. For the present the Treasurer of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund and of the London Mission, which are now united as 'The London Mission and Extension Fund,' shall be *ex-officio* members of the Conference. See 1909, p. 112.

One-third of the remaining number elected by the Conference shall retire annually, and the Lay Representative so retiring shall not be immediately eligible for re-election by the Conference (1880, pp. 334, 335 ; 1909, p. 112).

(ii) For the present, the election of the remaining Lay Representatives to the Conference shall be by the separate vote of the Laymen, taken by ballot after nomination, in the May Meetings of the District Synods ; such nomination to be by the Lay members only. The Circuit Stewards of each Circuit shall be called upon at the March Quarterly Meeting to declare their ability and willingness to attend the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District Synod in May, or the contrary. If they, or either of them, shall declare inability or unwillingness to attend the said District Synod, the Quarterly Meeting shall have the right of electing, by and from its own members by open vote or by ballot, after nomination by Lay members of the Meeting, a Representative or Representatives, to supply the vacancy or vacancies so created (1893, p. 319).

(iii) The number of Laymen to be elected in each District shall be determined by each preceding Conference when consisting of Ministers and Laymen.

3. The deliberations of the Conference, when consisting of Ministers and Laymen, shall be confined to the duly appointed members of that Conference ; but any Minister permitted by the District Synod to attend the Conference when composed of Ministers only, may be present during the Sessions of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen ; and the Lay members of Connexional Committees may be present during the proceedings of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen. Seats for the purpose shall be re-

served for such Ministers and Laymen. The admission of any other persons shall be determined and arranged according to circumstances at the discretion of the Conference (1877, vol. xx., pp. 419-22 ; 1901, pp. 507-10).

4. The Committee is instructed to reserve the front seats in the gallery of the Conference Chapel for Representatives and Ministers (1894, p. 319).

Vacancies among Lay Members of the Conference

1. If any Treasurer of a Connexional Fund be unable to attend the Conference, the Committee of the Fund in question shall, at its last meeting previous to the Conference, elect one of its Lay members to represent the Fund at that Conference, in the place of the Treasurer.

2. In the event of one or more of the forty-eight Laymen elected by previous Conferences being unable to attend the Conference, he or they shall inform the President at least one week before the date fixed for the commencement of the Representative Session. The President shall furnish the information to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, and that Committee shall nominate a person or persons to fill the vacancies thus created ; such nominations being submitted to the Conference at the commencement of the Representative Session, which shall be requested to elect the person or persons so nominated.

3. In the event of a vacancy arising by appointment to a Connexional Treasurership, or by death, or through the death or unavoidable absence of a Connexional Treasurer for whom no substitute has been appointed by the Committee in question, nominations shall be made in the same way ; and the person elected shall, as regards retirement and re-election, be subject to the rules

applying to the person whose place he takes (1897, p. 340 ; 1908, p. 112).

Quorum

No act of the Conference assembled as aforesaid shall be had, taken, or be the act of the Conference until forty of the members thereof are assembled, unless reduced under that number by death since the prior Conference or absence as after mentioned, nor until all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence shall be filled up by the election of new members of the Conference so as to make up the number one hundred, unless there be not a sufficient number of persons objects of such election ; and during the assembly of the Conference there shall always be forty members present at the doing of any act, save as aforesaid, or otherwise such act shall be void (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 662.

Act of Majority to be the Act of the whole Conference

The act of the majority in number of the Conference assembled as aforesaid shall be had, taken, and be the act of the whole Conference to all intents, purposes, and construction whatsoever (*The Deed of Declaration*). See pp. 661, 662.

Order and Form of the Business of the Conference

See 1914, pp. 635-44.

First Session of the Conference

The Representative Session commences on the Wednesday of the first week of the Conference, at 6 o'clock p.m. The business to be transacted in the first Session is as follows :

1. The formal constitution of the Legal Conference :
(a) Calling the Roll ; (b) Declaration of vacancies caused by death, or by absence for two successive years without a dispensation, and filling up of the same on the ground of *seniority* ; (c) Election of President on the nomination of the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference ; (d) Election of Secretary on the nomination of the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference ; (e) Granting dispensations to absentees.

N.B.—The above items of business are reserved to the Legal Conference.

2. The filling up of Vacancies caused by the death or absence of Lay Representatives elected by the Conference. See pp. 556, 557.

3. Roll of Attendance.

4. Appointment of Hours of Sessions. See p. 564.

5. Appointment of Time and Place for holding the next Conference. See pp. 564, 565.

6. Reception of Memorials, and Suggestions of District Synods ; and appointment of a Committee to report thereon. See pp. 565-67.

N.B.—Memorials from Circuits shall be printed and circulated throughout the Conference.

7. Notices of Motion. Such Notices may be given subsequently, if occasion arise.

N.B.—No Motion on any subject not before the Conference in the ordinary course of its business can be considered until after twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given. No Motion other than those relating to the several Departments whose business comes in due course before the Conference can be discussed earlier than Monday, except by a two-thirds vote of the Conference. See pp. 572, 632, 633.

8. Appointment of the Nomination Committee with one Ministerial and one Lay Secretary. This Committee will consider nominations of members presented by the Committees of Departments (1914, p. 96). See pp. 567-70.

9. Appointment of a Committee to report the number of Laymen from each District who may attend the next Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

10. Appointment of any other Committee according to Standing Orders.

N.B.—The Secretary of the Conference shall print a preliminary list of the names suggested for appointment on these Committees and circulate them on the Wednesday evening; the vote on such Committees to be taken near the close of the Thursday morning Session.

11. The various announcements in connexion with the Conference.

N.B.—No other business can be transacted on the Wednesday evening (1911, pp. 90, 91; 1914, pp. 636, 637).

Formal Constitution of the Conference

The Constitution of the Conference shall be the first business of the Conference. The retiring President shall occupy the chair until his successor is elected (1892, p. 217; 1901, p. 510).

Committee of Scrutineers

The Committee of Scrutineers, annually appointed, shall consist of not less than twenty, and shall make all arrangements for the collecting and counting of votes (1892, p. 217).

Voting Papers

See pp. 595-97.

Distinctive voting papers shall be prepared for the use of the members of the Legal Conference, in the elections to the Legal Hundred and to the offices of President and Secretary of the Conference (1893, p. 228).

Elections to the Legal Conference

1. All vacancies in the Legal Conference caused by death, or by absence for two consecutive years without a dispensation, shall be declared at the first meeting of the Conference in its Representative Session, and such vacancies shall be filled up by election by the Legal Conference on the ground of seniority (1899, p. 241).

2. The elections into the Legal Conference by seniority shall be by the votes of the members of the Legal Hundred only, from a list of twelve names of Ministers nominated by the previous Pastoral Session of the Conference. A list of all the Ministers in full work who have travelled not less than thirty-six years shall be presented to the Pastoral Conference, and from it the list of twelve shall be compiled by the votes by ballot of all Ministers in Full Connexion who are present at the Conference (*Journal*, 1814; 1899, p. 241; 1909, p. 361).

3. The newly-elected members of the Legal Conference in each year shall be members of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen (1880, p. 334).

4. The declaration of vacancies caused by Superannuation shall be deferred until the meeting of the Conference in its Pastoral Session (1899, pp. 241, 242). See pp. 625, 626.

Ireland

See p. 625.

Dispensations to Absent Members of the Legal Conference

Any member of the Conference absenting himself from the yearly assembly thereof for two years successively without the consent or dispensation of the Conference, and be not present on the first day of the third yearly assembly thereof at the time and place appointed for the holding of the same, shall cease to be a member of the Conference from and after the said first day of the said third yearly assembly thereof to all intents and purposes as though he were naturally dead ; but the Conference shall and may dispense with or consent to the absence of any member from any of the said yearly assemblies for any cause which the Conference may see fit or necessary, and such member, whose absence shall be so dispensed with or consented to by the Conference, shall not by such absence cease to be a member thereof (*The Deed of Declaration*). See pp. 662, 663.

Election of the President and the Secretary

1. Immediately after all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence are filled up by the election of new members as aforesaid, the Conference shall choose a President and Secretary of their assembly out of themselves, who shall continue such until the election of another President or Secretary in the next or other subsequent Conference (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 662.

2. The nomination of the President and Secretary shall be made by ballot vote by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference.

3. The number of one hundred members of the Legal Conference having been completed by the filling up of vacancies caused by death, or by absence for two successive years without dispensation, the Legal Conference shall proceed to choose its President and Secretary.

4. The Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the person nominated to the office of President and the person nominated to the office of Secretary by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference (1899, p. 242). See p. 627.

5. If the Legal Conference shall at any time negative either of the nominations of the preceding Conference, the Ministers who are members of the Conference in its Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister for the office in question ; and the result of that nomination shall be submitted to the decision of the Legal Conference.

6. Should the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of President be declared by the Legal Conference at its first meeting, the Ministers who are members of the Conference in its Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister to the office of President in the place of the Minister deceased or disqualified ; and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated.

7. Should the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of Secretary be declared by the Legal Conference at its first meeting, the Ministers who are members of the Conference in its Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister to the office

of Secretary in the place of the Minister deceased or disqualified ; and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated.

8. If, in the event of the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of the President, the Minister nominated by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference to the office of Secretary should be chosen to be President of the Conference, the Ministers who are members of the Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall nominate another Minister by ballot vote to the office of Secretary of the Conference, and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated (1901, pp. 511, 512).

Voting by Proxy

No person shall vote for the President by proxy (1793, vol. i., p. 288).

Entry in Journal

The retiring President and Secretary shall hereafter attest by their signature in the margin of the Journal the filling up of vacancies in the Legal Conference, and the election of the President and Secretary for the ensuing year (*Journal*, 1877).

Business reserved to the Legal Conference

N.B.—The filling-up of vacancies in the Legal Conference, the election of the President and Secretary of the Conference, and the granting of Dispensations to absentees, are reserved to the Legal Conference. See 1892, p. 217 ; and *Order and Form of Business of the Conference*, 1914, p. 636.

Votes of Thanks

All votes of thanks in the Conference shall be abolished. All courtesies and hospitalities shown to the Conference by private individuals or public authorities shall be publicly acknowledged by the President on behalf of the Conference and also by the Letter Writers (1911, pp. 91, 92).

Vacancies among Lay Members of the Conference

See pp. 556, 557.

Hours of Conference Session

1. With a view to facilitating the despatch of the Conference business, there shall be two Sessions daily (1886, p. 297).

2. In order to afford sufficient time for the proper discharge of the business of the Conference, an Evening Session shall be held on each day of the Representative Week, if necessary (1903, p. 376).

The Next Conference

The time and place of holding every subsequent Conference shall be appointed at the preceding one (*The Deed of Declaration*). See pp. 661, 664.

Rotation of Conferences

1. The Conference resolves to revert to the former arrangement, by which the Conference met twice in London for once in any other town.

2. The Conference resolves that, subject to local convenience, the rotation of the Conferences shall be as follows: London, Burslem, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Man-

chester, Camborne, Sheffield, Bristol, Nottingham, London, York, Lincoln, Bradford, Cardiff, Liverpool, Plymouth, Leeds, Birmingham, Hull (1898, p. 354; 1914, p. 388).

Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings

N.B.—1. Memorials must comply with the Standing Orders of the Conference. See pp. 182-84.

A Memorial must be in manuscript, and must have been approved by a majority of the persons present at the Circuit Quarterly Meeting. It must also be signed by the Chairman of the Meeting, 'who shall add a footnote, stating the number of the persons present, and also the number voting for and against the Memorial.' Superintendents must forward Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings to the Convener of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions not later than ten days before the opening of the Conference. See 1914, pp. 442-4.

2. The Conference has directed that Memorials shall be printed and circulated throughout the Conference. See 1914, p. 636.

Subject of Memorials

1. The Conference reserves to itself alone the right to determine whether a Memorial contains a proposal of a revolutionary character, or subversive of the Doctrine or Discipline of Wesleyan Methodism (1852, vol. xii., p. 112; 1895, p. 368).

2. The Conference cannot sanction such Memorials as involve a direct interference on the part of one Circuit with the local affairs or proceedings of another Circuit (1852, vol. xii., p. 112).

Committee on Memorials and Suggestions

All Memorials received by the Conference shall be referred to a Committee of its members, who shall carefully examine, consider, and classify the whole, and present their Report thereon to the Conference (1852, vol. xii., p. 112).

Chairman of Committee

The Ex-President, year by year, shall be the *ex-officio* Chairman of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions (1895, p. 216).

Convener of Committee

1. The Convener of the Conference Committee on Memorials from Circuits, and Suggestions from District Synods, is authorized to obtain, immediately after the Annual District Synods, from the Secretaries of the District Synods, copies of any Suggestions which may have been made.

2. Nothing shall be deemed to be a Suggestion of a District Synod but what is recorded in answer to the Question on the subject in the District Minutes (1872, vol. xviii., p. 652). See p. 495.

3. The Convener is instructed to divide the District Suggestions into two lists, according to their subjects: (1) for the Pastoral Session, and (2) for the Representative Session, of the Conference; and submit the lists to the President before they are entered in the *Agenda*.

4. The Secretary of the Conference shall furnish the Convener with a list of all matters referred for consideration to the several Departmental Committees; and the Convener shall obtain the several decisions of the said

Committees thereupon, and present them to the following Conference (1890, p. 208).

Consideration by Conference

The consideration and determination of all questions raised by Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings shall come within the province of the Conference when exclusively Ministerial, or when the Lay Representatives shall be present, according to the subject-matter thereof respectively. In all cases in which there may be any doubt as to the province to which a matter belongs, the President shall decide (1877, vol. xx., p. 424).

Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly

The Assembly, both in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions, shall consider all Memorials and Suggestions to Conference from the [Welsh] Synods, as well as Provisional Legislation. The Assembly itself may also send Memorials and make Suggestions (1898, p. 493 ; 1908, p. 564).

Notices of Motion

See pp. 558, 572.

Nomination Committee

1. The Nomination Committee shall consist of five Ministers and five Laymen, in addition to the President and Secretary of the Conference, with two Secretaries (Ministerial and Lay) ; and shall meet twice in the year—in May, and immediately before the Conference. Some Representative of each Department shall be present at both these meetings, by arrangement in the Committee of such Department.

2. The Nominations for the ensuing Conference shall be made by the several Connexional Committees not later than April, with the exception of the Local Preachers', Class Leaders', Auxiliary Fund Committee, the Connexional Fund Committee, and the Wesley Deaconess Institute (which shall report not later than July 2) ; and the Secretaries shall send to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee, a full fortnight before its first meeting, at least twenty-five printed lists of members so nominated, on which there shall be a record of the attendances of the members during the past year. The names of new members shall be printed in italics, and those of members nominated for reappointment shall be distinguished by an asterisk.

3. One-fifth of the Ministers and of the Laymen on each Connexional Committee shall retire annually, and shall not be eligible for re-election, except by a two-thirds majority of those present. The vote shall be taken by ballot after all nominations have been placed before the Committee, first on those who have been proposed for re-nomination, and afterwards on those newly nominated.

4. The Secretaries of the Nomination Committee shall compile a register of the names of such persons nominated or renominated, with a list of all the Connexional Committees on which it is proposed they should serve, and send a copy to each member of the Nomination Committee seven days before its first meeting.

5. These names shall be considered by the Nomination Committee, which shall have power to make any suggestions they think fit in regard to them. While it is unadvisable to lay down any hard and fast limit, it is, as a general rule, undesirable that any person should be nominated for appointment on another Connexional

Committee who is already a member of four such Committees.

6. The suggestions of the Nomination Committee shall be sent to the Secretaries of the Departments concerned, for consideration by their several Committees, and the decision of these Committees in each case shall be reported to the second Meeting of the Nomination Committee, which shall make such changes as appear desirable and report to the Conference.

7. Members of Connexional Committees elected by the Synods, other than Chairmen of Districts, shall not be elected for more than three years in succession, except by a two-thirds majority of those present, the vote to be taken by ballot. These elections shall take place at the May Synod, and the names shall be forwarded at once to the Secretaries of the Nomination Committee.

8. The following are the Committees within the scope of the Nomination Committee, Sub-Committees and Committees purely local being excluded :—

Ordinary Committee of Privileges.	Board of Management for Secondary Schools.
Foreign Missions.	National Children's Home and Orphanage.
Ministers' Children.	Lord's Day.
Chapel Affairs.	Necessitous Local Preachers.
Home Mission.	Temperance.
London Mission and Extension Fund.	Methodist Settlement in London.
Connexional Fund.	Social Purity.
Auxiliary Fund.	Local Preachers.
Theological Institution.	Class Leaders.
Education.	Wesley Guild.
Sunday School Department.	Wesley Deaconess Institute.

(1905, pp. 102, 103 ; 1906, p. 212 ; 1907, p. 106 ; 1908, p. 110).

Lists of Committees to Appear in the Conference Agenda

All lists of Committees which are to be considered by the Nomination Committee shall, as far as possible, be printed in the *Agenda* for the Conference ; the names of new members being printed in italics, and those of members nominated for reappointment by a two-thirds majority by ballot being distinguished by an asterisk ; care being taken to give the Christian name and address of each Layman (1890, p. 292 ; 1905, p. 103).

New Members of Connexional Committees

The Secretaries of Departments shall inform all new members, Laymen and Ministers, of their appointment upon Connexional Committees (1890, p. 292).

Postal Addresses of Lay Members of Connexional Committees

A complete list of the Lay members of each Connexional Committee, with their postal addresses, shall be handed to the Secretary of the Conference for insertion in the *Minutes* (1892, p. 319).

Expenses of Nomination Committee

The expenses of the Nomination Committee shall be borne equally by all the Committees that report to the Nomination Committee according to the Regulations of the Conference, the share of such Committees as have no fund of their own being paid from the Connexional Fund (1907, p. 49).

Committee on Attendance at the next Conference

N.B.—At each Conference a Committee is appointed to report upon the number of Laymen from each District

who may attend the next Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

Other Committees to be Appointed according to Standing Orders

See p. 559.

Induction of the President

N.B.—The Induction of the President takes place at the commencement of the Session on Thursday morning. See 1905, p. 113.

The Conference Arrangements Committee is directed to reserve the body of the Chapel strictly for the members of the Conference (1892, p. 217).

Privilege and Power of the President

The said President shall have the privilege and power of two members in all acts of the Conference during his Presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities as the Conference shall from time to time see fit to entrust into his hands (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 662.

Stationing Committee

See p. 542.

Rules of Debate

PREAMBLE.—Whereas much of the business of the Conference has been, and should continue to be, conducted in the form of Conversations, Rules 10 and 18 shall not apply, except when a formal Resolution has been duly placed before the Conference.

1. When any member wishes to address the Con-

ference, he shall rise and address the President, but shall not proceed until the President calls upon him.

2. No member shall remain standing during a discussion, except the member addressing the President.

3. No member shall speak more than once on the same question without leave of the Conference, except as provided for in the Preamble.

4. The mover of a substantive Resolution shall have a right to reply, but not the mover of an Amendment. The reply must be limited to answering the arguments advanced against the motion.

5. Every Motion and Resolution shall be presented in writing by the proposer, at the time the proposition is made, and shall be immediately handed to the Secretary.

6. Motions of which due notice has been given shall, unless in special cases, be dealt with under the Departments to which they relate or refer.

7. When a Resolution has been moved and seconded it shall not be withdrawn without the consent of the Conference.

8. The seconder of a Resolution may reserve his speech.

9. A Report of a Committee, officially presented, shall be received without Motion ; but its adoption, as a whole or by clauses, shall be moved and seconded.

10. No Motion or Resolution on any other subject shall be submitted until the one under consideration is disposed of.

This may be done by withdrawal (Rule 7), adoption, or rejection, or by one of the following motions :

i. Amendment of the subject-matter, either by varying the terms, by omission or addition.

(a) Should an Amendment be carried, it becomes the substantive Motion, and thereon an Amendment may be proposed. But if no further Amendment is proposed, the Amendment (which has become the substantive Motion) shall be put without further discussion.

Should the Amendment be lost, and no further Amendment be proposed, the original Motion shall be put without further discussion.

(b) No second Amendment shall be submitted until the first is disposed of, though any speaker may give notice of his intention to propose a second Amendment if the first should not be carried.

ii. Any of the following Motions, which would be in order whether a Motion or a Motion with Amendment were before the Conference :

(a) 'The previous question'—which shall be put to the Conference in the following form : 'That the Resolution (or Resolution and Amendment) before the Conference be not put.' This may be discussed concurrently with such Resolution or Amendment.

If 'the previous question' be carried, the Resolution or Amendment before the Conference cannot be put. If it be not carried, the discussion may proceed.

(b) 'The order of the day,' i.e. that the next business as ordered by the Conference be now taken.

(c) The postponement of the question either to a definite time, or to a time to be hereafter fixed.

(d) Reference to a Committee.

iii. Adjournment—

(a) Of the Debate.

(b) Of the Conference.

11. A Motion 'That the vote be now taken' may be presented by any member; but no discussion shall be allowed thereon. If the motion should be carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those voting, the President shall forthwith call upon the member, if any, who may have the right of reply, and immediately thereafter shall put the question.

12. At the close of a discussion the President shall request all members to be seated, and the Resolution, or Resolution and Amendment, shall be read before being put to the vote. The vote on the Amendment shall be taken first.

No member shall speak after the President has risen to put 'the question' to the Conference, until a vote has been taken.

13. A Motion to rescind any Resolution of the Conference can be submitted only after notice duly given.

14. The President shall call to order any speaker who departs from the question, or violates the courtesies of debate.

15. The President shall decide all questions of order.

16. A member may rise to a point of order, when he deems the Rules of Debate, or the Regulations of the Conference, to have been violated. He must submit the 'point of order' to the President. Upon the question of order being raised, the member addressing the Conference shall take his seat and retain it until the 'point of order' is decided.

17. A member who thinks himself misrepresented by a speaker, may, by the indulgence of the Conference,

interrupt the speaker, to correct the mis-statement ; but he must not enter into argument.

18. Questions which relate to the rights and privileges of the Conference, or of individual members thereof, or to the order of business, shall have precedence (1888, pp. 292-5).

President's Power to Nominate Committees

The President shall nominate for the consideration of the Conference all Committees, except as it may be otherwise ordered either specially or in the Standing Regulations of the Conference (1888, p. 295).

Committees of Connexional Departments

The President of the Conference, the Ex-President, and the Secretary of the Conference, shall be, *ex officio*, members of every Committee of a Connexional Department (1881, p. 270).

Connexional Committees

The Conference declares that the President of the Conference is the *ex-officio* Chairman of all Connexional Committees (*Journal*, 1907).

Power to Supply a Circuit with Preachers

In order to make our Districts more effective, the President of the Conference shall have power, when applied to, to supply a Circuit with Preachers, if any should die or desist from travelling, and to sanction any change of Preachers which it may be necessary to make in the intervals of the Conference (1797, vol. i., p. 395).

For *Supplies* see *Standing Orders* in *Minutes*, Part I.

Power to Attend District Synods and to Visit Circuits

1. The President of the Conference shall have power . . . to assist at any District Synod, if applied to for that purpose by the Chairman of the District, or by a majority of the Superintendents in such District. And he shall have a right, if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit, and to inquire into their affairs with respect to METHODISM, and, in union with the District Synod, redress any grievance (1797, vol. i., p. 395). See pp. 516, 517.

2. It is recommended that in any case which may arise affecting the administration of our System in any Circuit, before applying to the President, the Chairman of the District should be consulted (*Journal*, 1857).

Minor District Synods

In the case of the trial of an appeal against a sentence of expulsion pronounced by the Chairman of a District in the capacity of Superintendent of a Circuit, the two members of the Minor District Synod added by the legislation of 1894 shall be nominated by the President of the Conference (1897, p. 241). See p. 514.

Special District Synods

See pp. 516-18.

Chairman of District

See p. 444.

Trial of a Chairman of a District

See pp. 445, 446.

Supplying Vacant Chair of a District

See pp. 444, 445.

Probationers and the Sacraments

See pp. 47, 48.

Power to grant Permission for Sale of Chapels

1. If the sale of a Chapel or other Trust Property should be deemed expedient in the interval between one Conference and another, the President for the time being is authorized, on behalf of the Conference, to affix his signature to the document giving permission to sell, provided that each case be first certified to him as approved by the Chapel Committee.

2. All sales of Trust Property which shall be duly sanctioned shall be entered in the Journal of the Conference (1866, vol. xvi., p. 569).

Power to sign Application to the Charity Commissioners

The Conference empowers the President for the time being to affix his signature to any petition or application to the Charity Commissioners for the exercise of their powers in all cases in which such signature may be necessary, provided that the application be first certified and recommended to him by the Chapel Committee (1886, p. 225). See pp. 113, 114.

Ministers residing Abroad

See pp. 380, 381.

Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly

See pp. 525, 526.

Channel Islands Ministers

See p. 435.

The Conference Plan

See p. 540.

Pastoral Address

See p. 631.

The President's Assistant

In consequence of the great accumulation of public business that now devolves upon our President during the year of his Presidency, it is agreed that a Junior Preacher shall, from year to year, be stationed with the President for the time being, to assist him in his official correspondence, etc., and to supply his place in his Circuit during his official journeys, or other unavoidable public engagements (1825, vol. vi., p. 66).

Expenses of the President

Let no Preacher, Steward, or Leader, on any account send for our President or Secretary, without bearing his expenses (1800, vol. ii., p. 58).

A President who Dies during his Year of Office

Q. How may we provide against the difficulties and inconveniences resulting from the death of any President of the Conference, who may die during the year of his Presidency?

A. In every such case, the last surviving President shall immediately enter again into the office so vacated, and shall be considered for the remainder of that year, and until the election of a successor at the ensuing Con-

ference, as having all the powers, privileges, and authorities of the Presidency, and responsible for all its duties (1816, vol. iv., pp. 235, 236).

Protracted Illness of the President

In order to provide against the difficulties and inconveniences which may result from the continued affliction of the President of the Conference, in every such case the Regulation which was made in the year 1816 for the case of a President dying during the year of his Presidency, shall be applied according to the extent and duration of the exigency ; that is to say, on receiving notice from the President of his inability, through indisposition, to discharge the duties of his office, the last surviving President shall be considered as having 'all the powers, privileges, and authorities of the Presidency, and responsible for all its duties' (1840, vol. ix., p. 104).

Re-election of Presidents

The same President is not to be re-chosen above once in eight years (1792, vol. i., p. 269).

The Ex-President and the Stationing Committee

See p. 542.

The Ex-President and Supplies

The retiring President shall furnish to the Conference, at the commencement of the Pastoral Session, a list of all Ministers who have had Supplies during any part of the preceding year, with the date in each case on which the Supply was sent and withdrawn. And on receiving this list, the Conference shall appoint a Committee to inquire

whether these Ministers are physically competent to take a Circuit (1889, p. 309 ; 1906, p. 346).

For *Supplies*, see *Standing Orders* in *Minutes*, Part I.

The Ex-President and the List of Reserve

1. The retiring President shall furnish to the Designation Committee a Report as to the health and fitness for our work of those Probationers who have been, during the year, on his List of Reserve ; the Committee to report to the Conference (1891, p. 339). See p. 645.

At the commencement of the Pastoral Session of each Conference the retiring President shall furnish a list of the names and addresses of the Preachers on his list of Reserve, with particulars of their employment during the year. The list shall contain (1) the names of those sent out as Supplies by the President, with the date of appointment ; (2) the names of those employed under private arrangement (1892, p. 328).

For *List of Reserve* see *Standing Orders* in *Minutes*, Part I. Also *Summary*, pp. 301, 302.

The Ex-President and the Memorials Committee

See p. 566.

Charge to Newly-ordained Ministers

The President of the preceding Conference shall address to them, in the presence of the congregation, an appropriate Charge (1813, vol. iii., p. 389).

The Ex-President and Committees of Connexional Departments

See p. 575.

Nomination of the Secretary of the Conference

See p. 627.

The Secretary of the Conference and the Stationing Committee

See p. 542.

Journal

1. All Resolutions and Orders touching elections, admissions, expulsions, consents, dispensations, delegations, or appointments and acts whatsoever of the Conference shall be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, which shall be kept for that purpose, publicly read, and then subscribed by the President and Secretary thereof for the time being during the time such Conference shall be assembled, and when so entered and subscribed shall be had, taken, received, and be the acts of the Conference, and such entry and subscription as aforesaid shall be had, taken, received, and be evidence of all and every such acts of the said Conference and of their said delegates without the aid of any other proof, and whatever shall not be so entered and subscribed as aforesaid shall not be had, taken, received, or be the act of the Conference ; and the said President and Secretary are hereby required and obliged to enter and subscribe as aforesaid every act whatever of the Conference (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 664.

2. A Journal for each year shall be provided in two parts ; and in order to secure an earlier and more complete record, the sheets of the Journal shall be prepared beforehand, and separately filled up as business advances, duly certified, and immediately bound (*Journal*, 1877).

Daily Record

1. A Daily Journal shall be kept by one of the Assistant Secretaries, comprising an exact record of all the business of the Conference (*Journal*, 1838).

2. The Daily Record of the Representative Session shall be printed day by day and circulated among the members of the Conference. When the Conference assembles for the afternoon session of each day the Record Secretary shall move that the Record as printed be taken as read, and approved by the Conference (1911, p. 609).

3. In the Pastoral Session the Daily Record shall be printed as in the Representative Session, except where cases of Character and Discipline are concerned (1911, p. 612).

Daily Record and Journal of the Conference

1. In future it shall not be necessary to write out in full in the Daily Record of the Conference, the Lists, Reports, Resolutions, Suggestions, Minutes, or other matters which are already printed in the Conference *Agenda*, but in each case the entry shall be by reference to the page in the printed volume, such alterations or additions as the Conference may make in what is printed being duly noted: and, to ensure accuracy, every alteration or addition to any List, Resolution, or other matter shall be entered in the official copy of the *Agenda* when the business in question is before the Conference.

2. Lists of Committees appointed to sit *during the Conference* shall not be re-written in the Daily Record, but the Committee Book shall be preserved with the other official Books; and in each case a copy of the list

shall be furnished to the Convener of the Committee in question.

All lists of Committees appointed to sit *during the year* shall be entered in the Daily Record, as heretofore.

3. Every Resolution of the Conference (including the Reports of Committees) which is not presented in print in the *Agenda* shall be written out as heretofore.

4. The Stations of the Ministers shall not be copied into the Journal by hand, but a printed copy, duly certified as correct by the Secretary of the Conference, shall be bound up with the Journal sheets year by year.

With this exception, the keeping of the Journal shall remain as at present (1895, pp. 220, 221).

Custody of Connexional Documents

1. The Conference, in 1799, directed that, during the intervals of the Conference, the *Journals* should be kept in London (1799, vol. ii., p. 22).

2. In addition to the Journals and Daily Records of the Conference, the Reports of Committees meeting during the Conference and the Resolutions of the Conference thereon and the Minutes of the several District Synods, which are kept at the Conference Office, the following Documents shall also be preserved: (1) The printed *Agenda* of the Conference; (2) The Minutes of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions for the current and preceding year, with the Documents laid before that Committee, and the Resolutions of the Conference thereon; (3) Any legal Opinion obtained by the direction of the Conference; and (4) a Record of all Legacies left to Connexional Funds; with any other documents which the Conference may hereafter direct

to be preserved (1882, pp. 287, 288 ; 1895, pp. 352, 353 ; 1905, pp. 381, 382 ; 1912, p. 383). See p. 497.

N.B.—The Custodian is instructed to report annually to the Conference what Documents have been received and placed in custody during the year (1912, p. 383).

The Secretary of the Conference and the Memorials Committee

The Secretary of the Conference shall furnish the Convener with a list of all matters referred for consideration to the several Departmental Committees (1890, p. 208).

Reports of Special Committees

The Conference directs that all Reports of Committees referred to the consideration of the District Synods shall be forwarded to the members of such Synods not later than the first of May in each year (1878, p. 188).

The Secretary and Committees of Connexional Departments

See p. 575.

The Secretary's Expenses

See p. 578.

Assistant Secretaries

Assistant Secretaries shall be appointed, as heretofore, by the Pastoral Session of the Conference, and shall continue in office until the meeting of the Pastoral Session of the ensuing Conference. But should any vacancy arise through any cause, it shall be filled up at the first meeting of the Conference by the Ministers who

are members of the Representative Session (1899, p. 243 ; 1900, p. 229).

Conference Agenda

A Minister shall be appointed, year by year, to prepare the volume of *Agenda* for the ensuing Conference, and to have it sent to the Lay Representatives as early as possible (1901, p. 104).

N.B.—The Order of Conference Procedure and Rules of Debate are to be printed in the volume of *Agenda*. See pp. 571-75, 586, 587.

Agenda to be sent to Absent Members of the Legal Conference

A copy of the *Agenda* shall be sent to each member of the Legal Conference, resident in Great Britain, who is unable to attend the Conference (1895, p. 316).

Order and Form of Conference Business

N.B.—The Conference, in 1889, having provisionally adopted the 'Order and Form of Conference Business' contained in the *Minutes* for that year (pp. 291-300) directed that it should be submitted to the District Synods when Ministers only were present, and when Ministers and Laymen were present ; and that their Reports, if any, should be considered by the next Conference, both in its Pastoral and Representative Sessions.

In 1890, having received the Reports of the District Synods, the Conference confirmed its Resolution relating to the 'Order and Form of Conference Business,' and directed that it should be printed in the *Agenda* for the next year (1890, pp. 290, 291).

In 1899, in consequence of the proposed change in the Order of Sessions, the Conference directed that the

' Order and Form of Conference Business ' should again be revised. See 1900, pp. 471-7.

See *Agenda* for each year. See also pp. 671-79.

Conference Procedure

The following shall be the Order of Business in the Conference, day by day :

1. Reading the Daily Record, or presentation of printed Record (1911, p. 91).

2. Communications, Letters, &c.

3. Any Notice of Motion arising out of current business.

(i) Notices of Motion shall be presented not later than the second day of the Conference ; but such notices may be given subsequently, if occasion arise.

(ii) No Motion on any subject not before the Conference in the ordinary course of its business can be considered until after twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given (1889, p. 293).

4. Reports of Committees.

(i) Nothing in this Rule shall prevent the reception of the Report of a Committee at any other time when the Conference may think it necessary or desirable.

(ii) All Reports of District and other Committees, and all Official Documents, shall be read from the platform.

(iii) The President shall nominate for the consideration of the Conference all Committees, except as it may be otherwise ordered either specially or in the Standing Regulations of the Conference.

5. The Questions as they follow in the 'Order and Form of Business of the Conference.' See pp. 671-79.

6. Any other matter which it may be necessary or convenient to deal with before the Conference adjourns. See *Agenda* for each year.

Home Mission Fund

For *Compendium of Regulations relating to the Home Mission Fund* see *Minutes*, 1879, pp. 224-42. See *Summary*, pp. 383-92, 466-69, 498-501.

Committee

See *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 35-7.

Army and Navy Board

For Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, p. 37.

The Board of Managers, for the purpose of continuity, and to meet the requirements of legal documents, shall be designated the Army and Navy Sub-Committee (1903, p. 47).

For the scheme for the Reorganization of the Army and Navy Work see *Minutes*, 1903, pp. 46-8.

Seamen's Mission

For Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 38, 39.

Missions in Large Towns

In future, Connexional status shall be granted to Local Missions only on the recommendation of the Home Mission Committee (1896, p. 329).

Relations between Central Mission Committees and Quarterly and Trustees' Meetings

N.B.—For Report of the Home Mission Committee,

and the Resolutions of the Conference on this subject see *Minutes*, 1910, pp. 42-6.

Central Mission Quarterly Meetings and Non-Resident Trustees

The Conference resolves that the direction that the Quarterly Meeting of the Manchester Mission (Oldham Street Circuit) shall include the Trustees of all the Chapels and Mission Halls who are Members of Society, whether such Trustees are resident in the Circuit or not, shall apply to all the Central Missions whose Committees are appointed by the Conference (1910, p. 103; 1911, p. 83).

Manchester and Salford Mission

For Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, p. 592.

The Conference directs that the Quarterly Meeting of the Manchester (Oldham Street) Circuit, now comprising the whole of the Mission area, shall include the Trustees of all the Chapels and Mission Halls who are Members of Society, whether such Trustees are resident in the Circuit or not; and the Conference further directs the said Quarterly Meeting to act in harmony with the Committee of the Mission (1895, p. 274).

Lay Treasurers and District Synod

The Lay Treasurers of this Mission shall be members of the Manchester District Synod, when financial and general affairs are under consideration (1875, vol. xix., p. 713).

Birmingham Mission

For Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, p. 593.

The Conference consents to the enlargement of the

Committee . . . one-third of whom shall be Trustees of Connexional Property occupied by the Mission (1889, p. 250).

Liverpool Mission

For Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 593, 594.

Leeds, Bolton, Sheffield, Nottingham, Hull, Bradford, Westminster New Hall, Leysian, and Merthyr Central Missions

For Committees see *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 594-9.

Edinburgh Mission

1. The Conference resolves that the Edinburgh Mission shall take a separate and independent position ; the Minister continuing to act, as heretofore, under the direction of the Chairman of the District and the District Home Mission Committee.

2. The Conference appoints a Committee of Management, to consist of the following persons, viz. :

- (1) All those connected with the Mission who may be eligible for membership in the Quarterly Meeting.
- (2) The Stewards of the Edinburgh (Nicolson Square) Circuit.
- (3) The joint Treasurers of the Scotland District Home Mission Committee.
- (4) Two Laymen named by the Conference. With power to add to their number (1891, p. 284).

Special Mission Committees

N.B.—The Conference has authorized the Synods to appoint special Committees in a number of Missions

specified in the *Minutes*, to advise and assist in the management of those Missions, and has directed the Quarterly Meetings concerned to act in harmony with the Committees so appointed. See *Minutes*, 1900, p. 263.

Lay Workers' College

The Conference resolves to transfer the work of the ' Joyful News ' Mission to the Home Mission Committee, subject to the following conditions, viz. :

1. That the arrangements made for carrying on the work shall be of such a character as will not involve the creation of a separate Department, or any financial liability for the permanent maintenance of an Institution for the purposes of the Mission. With this in view the work shall be carried on either in rented buildings, or in buildings which, if purchased, shall be easily realizable, and held in trust to be used, or disposed of as the Home Mission Committee may direct, and with ample powers to the Committee for the appropriation of the proceeds of any sale of the property.

2. That the workers receiving the benefit of the Home shall, as far as possible, and except in special cases, contribute to their own support, so that, with voluntary contributions given as heretofore to the Home, the entire annual outlay shall be defrayed without bringing any new financial obligations on the ordinary income of the Home Mission Fund.

3. That the Home shall, if possible, be located in a country District in which the services of the residents may be made available as Local Preachers or Exhorters for as large a number of Villages as possible.

4. That the work shall come under the direction of a

sub-Committee to be appointed by the Home Mission Committee, and shall be in charge of a Minister acting under the direction of the Home Mission Committee (1903, pp. 44, 45).

5. The Conference consents to the appointment of an additional Minister to Cliff College for the purpose of giving instruction in Theology and Bible Study (1906, p. 41).

Gospel Cars

N.B.—A copy of the 'Conditions' on which Gospel Cars are allocated to Districts and Circuits, and on which men are received as Gospel Car Evangelists, may be obtained from the Home Mission Office.

Home Mission Deputations

The Ministers who are appointed as Deputations on behalf of our Home and Foreign Missions are responsible to the Conference for the fulfilment of their appointments (1888, p. 189).

Division or Alteration of Circuits or Districts

See pp. 174-77.

Increase or Decrease of the Number of Ministers

See pp. 155-57, 469.

1. All proposals for employing an additional Preacher in any Circuit shall be considered and allowed in full Conference before such Preacher be entered on the Plan of Stations (1813, vol. iii., p. 387). See p. 547.

2. Let no more Preachers be called out into the Work than the Connexion can support (1805, vol. ii., p. 291).

The Connexional Fund

1. A separate Fund shall be formed, to be called 'The Connexional Fund,' to meet Connexional charges. These charges shall, for the present, include :

- (i) All items now described as 'Connexional Expenses' not chargeable to Circuits.
- (ii) Supplies for afflicted and deceased Ministers.
- (iii) Circuit travelling for aged and infirm Ministers.
- (iv) Aid Grants to special cases for removals and afflictions, and Grants for furnishing additional Ministers' Houses.

2. The income of the Fund shall be derived from :

- (i) Annual Collections to be made in all our Chapels not later than March, the amount to be forthwith remitted to the Deputy Treasurer and reported at the ensuing May Synods.
- (ii) Special donations and bequests.

3. The Yearly Collection in the Classes shall be discontinued.

N.B.—The foregoing resolution as to the Yearly Collection shall not apply to the North and South Wales Districts, in which (upon the request of their own Synods and of the Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly) the Yearly Collection in the Classes shall be made as formerly, and, in addition, the new Congregational Collection for the Connexional Fund shall be also made.

4. In view of the balance of loss sustained by the Home Mission Fund in relinquishing the Yearly Collection, and the urgent need for the extension of our work in all parts of the Kingdom, a Home Missionary Meeting shall be held in every Chapel and Preaching-place in the Connexion (1900, pp. 269, 270).

5. The existing Regulations as to applications for Grants from the Home Mission Fund for Supplies, Circuit Travelling, Removals, Furniture, and Afflictions shall for the present remain in force and apply to all similar applications for Grants from the Connexional Fund (1900, p. 282).

See pp. 469-71.

Committee

See *Minutes*, 1900, pp. 269, 270 ; 1914, pp. 43, 44.

Grants

1. All applications for Grants for Supplies, Circuit Travelling, Removals, Furniture, and Afflictions shall be submitted to the District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, whose recommendations shall be reported to the May Synod (1901, p. 54).

2. A Special Meeting of the Committee of the Connexional Fund shall be held to consider the recommendations as to Grants made by the May District Synods, and any Representative to the Stationing Committee interested in any application of any kind shall receive intimation of the meeting of the Committee, and be invited to attend this meeting to state and watch the case (1902, p. 54).

Grants for Circuit Travelling

N.B.—During the Representative Session of the Conference, a Committee, consisting of one Minister and one Layman from each District, meets to consider applications for Grants towards Circuit Travelling for the ensuing year. The decisions of this Committee are

reported, by the Home Mission Secretary, to the Annual District Synods.

1. Cases of Grants for Circuit Travelling which may arise through changes in the stationing of Ministers after the Representative Session of the Conference has closed shall be considered by a Special Committee to be composed of the Lay Representatives of the District in which the Conference is meeting, and an equal number of Ministers (1892, p. 312).

2. No Grant for Travelling shall be made to any Minister who is not labouring at the time in an extensive Circuit.

3. No such Grant shall be made to any Minister who has not been thirty years in the Ministry, except in very special cases of physical inability.

4. The applications in all special cases shall be made to the Connexional Fund Committee, to be duly considered ; the Grants to be voted at the Special Meeting in July (1880, p. 218).

Sacramental Service

The Conference Sacramental Service shall be held on the second morning of the Representative Session, in a Chapel other than the Conference Chapel, in lieu of the ordinary devotional exercises ; and shall be followed by a Conversation on the state of the Work of God (1898, p. 360 ; 1905, p. 113 ; 1914, p. 637).

Conversation on the State of the Work of God

The Conversation on the various aspects of the Work of God at Home and Abroad shall take place on Friday morning, immediately after the Sacramental Service.

The President may make some previous arrangement

as to the person or persons who shall introduce the Conversation. See *Order and Form of the Business of the Conference*, 1914, p. 637.

Election of Lay Representatives by the Conference

N.B.—With a view to securing continuity of representation, the number of Lay members elected by the Conference shall be increased from eighteen to forty-eight. One third of this number shall retire annually, and the Lay Representatives so retiring shall not be immediately eligible for re-election by the Conference (1880, pp. 334, 335; 1899, p. 349; 1900, p. 338).

1. Means shall be adopted for securing that the Voting List of persons nominated shall contain only the names of persons whose nomination is supported by six members of the Conference.

2. No person shall be regarded as elected for whom a clear majority of the votes cast is not recorded.

With a view to the carrying out of these two Regulations the following course shall be adopted:

- (i) A Committee of six Scrutineers shall be appointed.
- (ii) For the purpose of the nomination, a paper shall be prepared and distributed which will provide for the following entries to be made in it without declaring aloud in the Conference the names of the persons nominated:
 - (a) The name of the person nominated.
 - (b) The name of the person nominating.
 - (c) The names of six persons who support the nomination.

N.B.—The names of these supporters are to be obtained by the persons nominating.

- (iii) These nomination papers shall be collected by the Scrutineers ; and from papers which have been duly filled up, they shall prepare a voting-sheet to be printed after the manuscript has been read in the Conference.
- (iv) The manuscript shall supply the names of both the persons nominated and persons nominating them, but not the names of the persons supporting the several nominations.
- (v) The printed voting papers shall contain only the names of the persons nominated.
- (vi) In counting votes, the Scrutineers shall reject every voting paper upon which more than sixteen names are marked for election.
- (vii) Having counted the votes, the Scrutineers shall report to the Conference the names of persons for whom a clear majority of the votes cast has been recorded, and such persons shall be thereupon declared to have been duly elected.
- (viii) In the event of fewer than sixteen persons being elected by this first voting, a second vote shall be taken in the following manner : Double the number, minus one, of the names necessary to complete the election of sixteen persons shall in that event be submitted to the Conference by the Scrutineers (or if only one remains to be elected two names) ; the said names being those of the persons who have obtained in the first voting the highest number of votes, but less than half the total number of votes cast.
- (ix) These names shall be submitted to the Conference on a second voting paper ; and, from

among them, the number necessary to complete the election of sixteen persons shall be chosen (1880, pp. 255, 352, 353 ; 1899, p. 349 ; 1900, p. 338).

The Conferences of other Methodist Churches

N.B.—The President sends a communication to each of the other Methodist Conferences when they meet in England.

Representatives from other Conferences and the Arrangements of the Open Session

1. The Conference resolves that the Open Session be held on the Friday afternoon of the Representative Session.

2. That arrangements be made to secure that Representatives from the General Conferences of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South, the Methodist Church in Canada, and the Australasian Methodist Church, which Conferences meet once in four years, shall if possible be so appointed that every year one Representative from one of the above-named Conferences shall be present and be heard.

3. That a Representative from the French Conference and one from the South African Conference shall be heard on alternate years ; a Representative from the Irish Conference every year, and one from the General Conference of New Zealand when appointed.

4. That Representatives sent by this Conference to other Conferences shall be heard at the Conference following their return Home.

5. That other accredited visitors, including those from the Annual Conferences of America and Austra-

lasia, shall be introduced to the Conference, but no provision can be made for them to address it.

6. The Conference appoints a Correspondent whose duty it shall be, under the direction of the Secretary of the Conference, to see that the various Conferences are advised as to the years when Representatives are looked for, that the names of those appointed are duly known, that our own Conference Arrangements Committees are advised as to hospitality and appointments on the Conference Plan, and that Representatives are clearly informed as to the date of the Open Session and of any pulpit appointment, and are personally welcomed on their arrival (1890, p. 422 ; 1902, pp. 107, 108 ; 1914, pp. 106, 107).

N.B.—The name of the Correspondent appears each year in the *Minutes*. See 1914, p. 107.

Deputations to the Conference

N.B.—Deputations to the Conference shall be received on such days as the Conference itself shall direct. It is recommended that such Deputations shall be received at 11 o'clock during the morning Session, and that the time occupied shall not exceed forty minutes. See *Minutes*, 1914, p. 641.

The Twentieth Century Fund

See 1914, p. 85.

Foreign Missions

See pp. 397-435, 518-25.

For the General Committee see 1914, pp. 11-13.

See also *Summary*, pp. 397, 398, 403-10.

Rules and Regulations

For *Rules and Regulations of the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society* adopted by the Conference and by the Missionary Committee see p. 397.

Suggestions to Conference from Foreign District Synods

See pp. 521, 522.

New Legislation affecting Foreign District Synods

See p. 521,

Foreign Missionary Deputations

See pp. 502, 503.

Education

For the General Committee see 1914, pp. 55-7.

Day Schools

See pp. 126-28, 229-39.

Middle Class Schools

1. The Education Committee shall have charge of Middle Class Education. A Special sub-Committee shall be appointed in the interests of Middle Class Schools, which shall report to the Education Committee, and through that Committee to the Conference (1886, p. 260).

2. The Conference recommends the promoters of any projected Middle Class School, which it is proposed to denominate a Wesleyan Methodist School, to submit to this Sub-Committee the Draft of the Trust Deed or Articles of Association of the School, for any suggestions which the Committee may deem it desirable to make.

3. The Conference directs the Sub-Committee (i.) to consider schemes for the establishment of such Schools, when they are submitted to them, and to advise, as they may deem expedient, respecting such schemes ; (ii.) to report on such cases to the Conference ; (iii.) to act on behalf of the Conference, in the cases referred to, in the interval between one Conference and another ; (iv.) to present to the Conference, annually, any suggestions for the promotion of the interests of Methodist Middle Class Schools (1883, p. 234).

For *General Regulations for the Establishment and Working of Middle Class Schools* see 1875, vol. xix., pp. 694, 695.

Sunday Schools

For Connexional Sunday School Council see pp. 227, 228. For other particulars relating to Sunday Schools see pp. 193-229.

Theological Institution Committee

See 1914, pp. 49, 50.

N.B.—All the Tutors of the several branches of the Theological Institution shall be members of the General Committee (1907, p. 104).

For *Local Committees, Discipline Committees, Finance Sub-Committee, and Sub-Committee on Studies* see 1914, pp. 50-54, 360, 361. See *Summary*, pp. 286-91, 294.

Close of Financial Year

The Conference directs that the Financial Year of the Institution Fund shall close on June 20 of each year (1900, p. 286):

General Chapel Fund

For *Compendium of Regulations of the Conference respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property* see *Minutes*, 1866, vol. xvi., pp. 562-71. See p. 107.

Committee

See 1914, pp. 23, 24.

N.B.—The Chapel Committee usually meets on the first Wednesday of each month. All communications intended for the Committee must reach the Secretary not later than the Saturday preceding the day of the usual monthly Meeting (1914, p. 24).

Irregular Cases

1. The Conference directs that if, in any case to which a Connexional Committee has paid a Grant or Loan towards the cost of erecting a Chapel on condition that no debt shall be left except a Loan or Loans repayable without Interest, any other debt be contracted without the sanction of the Committee advancing the Loan, and of the General Chapel Committee, the particulars of such debt and the circumstances which occasioned it, shall be reported to the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District in which such Chapel is situated, and a record of the action taken thereon by the said District Synod shall be presented to the ensuing Conference (1874, vol. xix., p. 420).

See pp. 125, 474, 475, 477, 504.

2. Trustees violating any of our Rules relating to Chapel Affairs shall not receive assistance from the Chapel Fund, unless the Conference, upon a representation of the case by the Chapel Committee, shall authorize such assistance (1866, vol. xvi., p. 567).

Applications for Pecuniary Assistance beyond Limits of Circuit

Applications for pecuniary assistance towards Chapels or Schools shall not be made beyond the limits of the Circuits in which such Chapels or Schools are, or are intended to be, erected, unless such applications shall have been expressly sanctioned by the Conference (1866, vol. xvi., p. 567).

Sales

See pp. 123, 124, 482, 483, 577.

Applications to Charity Commissioners

See p. 577.

South Wales District Chapel Fund

See 1873, vol. xix., pp. 157-9 ; 1885, pp. 211, 212.

Committee

See 1914, p. 76.

This Committee shall appoint from among themselves one Minister and one Layman as Co-Treasurers of the Fund, and one Minister as Secretary of the Committee (1873, vol. xix., p. 158).

Reports to Conference

All matters relating to this Fund, and the proceedings of the District Synod with regard to Trust Property, and of the District Chapel Fund Committee, shall be annually reported, through the General Chapel Committee to the Conference (1873, vol. xix., p. 159).

First and Second North Wales District Chapel Fund

See 1867, vol. xvii., pp. 136, 137.

Committee

See 1914, p. 27.

This Committee shall appoint, from among themselves, one Minister and one Layman as Co-Treasurers of the Fund, one Minister and one Layman as Secretaries of the Committee, and one Minister as Loan Secretary (1867, vol. xvii., p. 136 ; 1914, p. 27).

Reports to Conference

All matters relating to this Fund, and the proceedings of the District Synod with regard to Trust Property, and of the District Chapel Fund Committee, shall be annually reported, through the General Chapel Committee, to the Conference (1867, vol. xvii., p. 137).

Relief and Extension Fund for Scotland

See 1883, pp. 207, 208 ; 1890, pp. 238, 239.

Committee

See 1914, p. 28.

London Mission and Extension Fund

For *Committee* see 1914, pp. 42, 43.

N.B.—This Fund now represents the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund and the London Mission. See 1909, pp. 111, 112 ; 1914, pp. 40, 41, 550-55.

Extension of Methodism in Great Britain

N.B.—The Conference, in 1904, authorized the General Chapel Committee to receive the subscriptions from the several Trusts formerly paid to the Extension Fund. See *Minutes*, 1904, pp. 78, 79.

Nominations for Designation to Departmental Offices

1. Three names shall be presented to the Pastoral Session, from which one shall be chosen for designation.

2. On the presentation of the names by the Committee of the Department for designation or appointment, the Conference, in its Representative Session, shall retain the right to add other names, and shall take at least one ballot, and then, if an absolute majority has been secured, and the Conference thinks fit, it may by open vote pass on the result of the first ballot to the Pastoral Session.

3. After the first vote has been taken it shall be open to any member of the Representative Session to move that the Standing Order which requires three names to be submitted to the Pastoral Session for designation or appointment to Departmental Offices be suspended in a particular case.

Should the motion for suspension of the Standing Order be carried in full Conference by a two-thirds majority, the Representative Session may submit either one name or two as may be deemed expedient. In all such cases the Pastoral Session shall have the right to nominate an additional name, or, if need be, two additional names to bring the number up to three, before proceeding to the ballot.

The Nominee or Nominees of the Representative Session must always be included in the three on which the final ballot is taken, should the Pastoral Session decide in any given case to increase the number of Nominees.

4. In any case of emergency which arises during the Representative Session involving immediate appoint-

ment, the Conference shall determine its own method of procedure, but in each case three names shall be sent forward to the Pastoral Session.

5. In any case of emergency which arises after the close of the Representative Session, the Pastoral Session shall have the right to appoint without a previous nomination.

6. Appointments to Departmental Offices shall be in the first instance, as now, for a period not exceeding six years; but all reappointments in the future shall be for three years only, and when any reappointment is made the number of votes cast in each case shall be reported (1875, vol. xix., p. 715; 1890, p. 423; 1911, pp. 92, 93; 1913, p. 101). See *Departmental Ministers*, pp. 392-96.

Postponement of Nominations

If any question seriously affecting ministerial character or fidelity should be raised upon a proposed name in the Representative Session of the Conference, the nominations for designation for appointment to the office in question shall be postponed without discussion to the Representative Session of the following Conference, when the nominations shall be made under the regulations affecting nominations in cases of emergency for immediate appointment. By this arrangement the objection would be considered and decided by the Pastoral Session of the Conference in the Representative Session of which it has been raised (1904, p. 112).

New Appointments to Departmental Offices

In any new appointment to a Departmental Office, the Minister elected shall have a clear majority of the

total number of votes cast ; and when such majority is not obtained on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken on the first two—or, if necessary, the first three—names on the list which have the largest number of votes (1883, p. 183).

New Departments

In future no Minister shall be set apart for the work of a new Department without the question of such an appointment having been referred to the Synods for their judgement (1903, p. 114).

Committee of Privileges

See 1902, p. 9 ; 1903, p. 7.

The Ordinary Committee

1. The Ordinary Committee shall have full power to take action on all National occasions, and in all cases affecting the interests, duties, rights, or privileges of our Church, unless in its judgement, or in the judgement of the President of the Conference, it is deemed expedient to refer any case to the Extraordinary Committee named below. The Committee must act in conformity with any existing Resolution of the Conference.

2. In all cases where proposed legislation or administration affects the interests of any Department managed by a Special Committee appointed by the Conference, the Committee of Privileges shall act in consultation with the particular Committee in such manner as the President of the Conference may direct ; and a joint meeting of the Committee of Privileges and of the Committee of the Department affected may be summoned by the Secretaries of both Committees, if directed by

the President of the Conference, in order to determine what action shall be taken.

N.B.—The expenses of such joint Committee are to be paid from the funds of the Committee in respect of whose affairs it is summoned (1903, p. 61).

3. The Ordinary Committee shall meet whenever it is convened either by direction of the President of the Conference or by its Secretaries (1882, p. 398; 1883, p. 191).

N.B.—For Constitution of the Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 6, 7.

The Extraordinary Committee

The Extraordinary Committee shall have full power to take action in all cases affecting our Connexional interests, and shall meet whenever the Ordinary Committee or the President of the Conference shall convene it (1882, p. 398; 1883, p. 191).

N.B.—For Constitution of the Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 7, 8.

Deputations to other Conferences

All Honorary Deputations to other Conferences shall be appointed in the Representative Session, upon the nomination of a Special Committee (1889, p. 299).

Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children

For Committees, and other important Regulations of the Conference respecting the affairs of this Fund see *Minutes*, 1906, pp. 18-28. Also *Summary*, pp. 148-51.

General Assessment

See *Minutes*, 1909, pp. 28, 29. Also *Summary*, pp. 505-10.

Basis of Assessment

1. In future the mode of Assessment on the Districts shall be at varying rates per Minister, and such rates shall be determined by the number of Members in Society and financial ability—other conditions, such as Grants made from the Home Mission and the Connexional Funds to Districts on account of Circuits which are not self-supporting, &c., being taken into consideration.

2. In estimating the financial ability of a District, the following shall be taken into account, viz. : Circuit Income, Seat Rents, Ordinary Contributions to our Funds, with Sunday School Income.

N.B.—Circuit Income shall be understood to include all sums administered by the Circuit Stewards, however raised ; where Ministers' Houses are Circuit Property, a fair rental for such Houses shall be included ; in considering the amount of Seat Rents, the Interest paid on debts on Trust Estates shall be taken into account.

3. The District Synods shall arrange the incidence of the Assessment on the Circuits, in accordance with the provisions contained in Resolutions 1 and 2. . . .

4. All estimates of Expenditure shall be made for periods of five years, and any Assessment made by the Conference shall remain in force for a period of five years. . . .

5. At the Conference prior to that at which each five-yearly period begins, a representative Committee shall be appointed to prepare a Scheme graduating the incidence of the Assessment to be made upon the Districts for the ensuing period.

6. Such representative Committee shall consist of the President and the Secretary of the Conference, the Ex-

President, the Officers of the Home Mission Fund, the Schools and Children's Fund, one Minister and one Layman to be elected by each District at the Financial District Synods in September, with twelve Ministers and as many Laymen as will equalize the number of Ministers and Laymen to be appointed by the Conference.

7. A regular balance-sheet of the Children's Fund, showing total Income and Expenditure in detail, shall be printed in the Annual Report.

8. The Departments shall pay, on account of each Minister employed by them, the average cost per Minister of the Children's Fund, to the Connexion. See p. 396.

9. The Children's and Schools Funds shall be amalgamated (1883, pp. 248, 249).

See *Minutes*, 1909, pp. 28, 29.

District Assessment

1. An Assessment for the Children's Fund shall be made in respect of all Ministers in the Home Work not being Supernumeraries, and all Preachers on Trial whose names are on the Stations; and all Children of such Ministers shall be chargeable to that Fund.

2. In Circuits to which a single man has been appointed for a fifth year and upwards, the Assessment in every case shall be at the same rate as that for a married Minister.

3. For every additional Minister called out in any District, an additional charge shall be made upon the District to the amount of the average cost per Minister to the Connexion, such amount to be charged either wholly on the Circuit by which the Minister is called out, or in part also on the other Circuits within the District, as may be determined by the District Synod.

N.B.—During the first four years, the Assessment shall be half the amount charged for a full married Minister.

4. In case of the increase of the number of Ministers in any five-yearly period, the amount of the District Assessment shall be increased by the amount of the Assessment for each additional Minister called out ; but there shall be no decrease in the amount of the District Assessment during such period.

N.B.—In the case of changes in the boundaries of Districts or Circuits, an equivalent change shall be made in the Assessment.

5. All balances of the Maintenance Section of the Children's Fund shall be forthwith available for the purposes of the Education Section of the Fund (1884, pp. 271, 272).

Institutions of Methodism and the Children's Fund

The accounts and claims hitherto paid from the Schools Fund on account of the Children of Ministers employed and paid by the different Institutions of Methodism to which their services are devoted, shall be henceforth paid by such Institutions respectively (*Journal*, 1866).

Worn-Out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund

For Committee see 1914, pp. 46, 47.

Invalid Ministers' Rest Fund

For Sub-Committee see 1914, p. 47.

National Children's Home and Orphanage

1. The Conference recognizes the establishment of the Children's Home, and commends the undertaking to the support of the Christian public (1871, vol. xviii., p. 390).

2. The Conference resolves that this Institution shall henceforth be known as the 'National Children's Home and Orphanage,' and that the historical fact shall be inserted under the title that it was founded by Dr. Stephenson (1909, p. 117).

Principal

A Principal of the Children's Home shall be set apart, on condition that the Institution will provide for his support, without making a claim upon any of the Connexional Funds (*Journal*, 1873). See *Departmental Ministers*, pp. 392-96.

Committees

See 1914, pp. 65-9.

N.B.—Twelve persons nominated by the Conference of the United Methodist Church are members of the General Committee. The Committee has also the right to associate with itself six Members of other Evangelical Communions. See *Minutes*, 1914, p. 66.

Deeds

N.B.—The Conference, year by year, authorizes the President to affix his signature as Representative of the Conference to any sale of property recommended by the General Committee of the National Children's Home and Orphanage. See *Minutes*, 1914, p. 65.

Collections

The Conference reminds the Methodist people that, whilst this work is of a broadly Christian character, it has special claims upon the Methodist Churches, and earnestly urges upon our people throughout the country that they should give to this work a permanent place

in their sympathies and contributions. The Conference heartily approves the devotion to this purpose of the Collections on Christmas morning, at Watch-night Services, and on other suitable occasions, and especially the Collection annually taken in our Sunday Schools on its behalf (1892, p. 296).

For *Scheme of Management* see 1879, pp. 257, 258.

Temperance

See pp. 239-47.

1. A Temperance Committee shall be appointed, from year to year, consisting of Ministers and Laymen, both abstainers and non-abstainers, to act in harmony with the acknowledged Discipline of the Connexion, and specially with the functions of the Committees of Privileges and Exigency.

2. It shall be the duty of this Committee to watch legislation as affecting the evils of Intemperance, to collect and circulate information in such ways as it may deem advisable, and generally to take such action in accordance with the first of these Resolutions as circumstances may require; and to report annually to the Conference, with such suggestions as, from time to time, they may think expedient (1875, vol. xix., p. 708).

Committee

See 1914, pp. 74, 75.

Conjoint Meetings

The Conference directs that the Temperance Committee, the Lord's Day Observance Committee, and the Social Purity Committee, or any two of them, shall meet for consultation when public questions arise in which they have common interest, and that whenever

possible they shall act conjointly ; it always being understood that none of these Committees surrenders its own responsibility in regard to any matters committed to it by Conference (1914, pp. 73, 74). See pp. 614, 620.

Secretary

In 1891 a Minister was appointed as General Temperance Secretary (1890, p. 289 ; 1891, p. 314).

For *Departmental Ministers* see pp. 392-96.

For *Bands of Hope, Circuit Temperance Societies, and Circuit Temperance Unions* see pp. 210-16, 239-45, 246. For *District Temperance Committees* see p. 512.

The Liquor Traffic and Circuit Administration

The Conference was never more alive than at the present time to the dire results of the Liquor Traffic. It rejoices in the progress of Temperance sentiment and practice in the Wesleyan Methodist Church, and recommends our people to keep from complicity with a traffic the results of which are so injurious to the interests of religion, morality, and social life. The Conference earnestly urges that this shall be borne in mind in the administration of our Circuits, and especially in the appointment of office-bearers (1904, p. 108).

Methodist Settlement in London

The Conference sanctions the establishment of a Settlement in London, for Religious and Social work in connexion with our own Church ; and consents to appoint a Minister to the charge of such Settlement (1889, p. 304).

Scheme of Management

1. The general object of the Settlement shall be to

provide a centre in London for Religious, Educational, and Social work to be carried on by resident and non-resident Workers.

2. The Settlement shall be under the general management of a Committee annually appointed by the Conference.

3. The President of the Conference for the time being shall be *ex-officio* President of the Settlement.

4. The General Committee shall have power to appoint Vice-Presidents, who shall be Members of some Evangelical Church, subject to the condition that one-half of the number shall be Members or adherents of our own Church. These gentlemen shall be furnished annually with Reports of the work of the Settlement.

5. Care shall be taken to provide, as far as possible, for the representation on the General Committee of Colleges and Schools or other Bodies connected with the Settlement.

6. The General Committee shall have power to add to its Sub-Committees persons who are not members of the Committee itself (1890, p. 298).

7. The Conference gives power to the Committee to meet occasionally for purely educational purposes, and to add to itself for these purposes persons interested in other Educational Institutions, their number not to exceed six (1893, p. 311).

Committee

See 1914, pp. 75, 76.

Social Purity

In 1884 the Conference appointed a Committee to deal with the question of Social Purity (1884, pp. 276, 277). See p. 612.

Committee

See 1914, pp. 77, 78.

The Allan Library

The Conference resolves that, while it is distinctly affirmed that the Allan Library is the property of the Ministers of the Connexion, it will in future be convenient and sufficient that the business connected therewith shall be transacted only by the Conference in its Representative Session (1894, p. 226). See 1914, p. 98.

Access to the Library

1. In the first place, all Ministers and Preachers on Trial whose names appear on the printed *Minutes* shall have right of access to the Library, subject to such Regulations as shall hereafter be determined.

2. Persons other than Ministers shall also be admitted to the benefit of the Library under such Regulations as shall hereafter be determined (1884, p. 279).

For *Terms of Membership*, see 1889, p. 290.

Œcumenical Conference

See 1914, p. 84.

Concerted Action

1. The Conference resolves that Concerted Action among the Methodist Churches is eminently desirable.

2. In order to promote such action the Conference agrees—That a United Committee be annually constituted by the appointment of Representatives by the several Conferences, for the purpose of mutual defence (1895, p. 310).

N.B.—For the names of those who form the Wesleyan Methodist portion of the Committee see *Minutes*, 1914, p. 85.

Unnecessary Multiplication of Chapels

The Conference expresses the belief and hope that the better understanding which now prevails between the different Methodist Churches will issue in the avoidance of the unnecessary multiplication of Chapels, especially in small places ; and, in any case of local difficulty and disagreement that may arise, directs its Chapel Committee to correspond with similar Committees of the other Methodist Churches to promote this result (1895, p. 311).

United Meetings

1. Wherever practicable, a United Meeting of the Ministers and an equal number of Representative Members of the various Methodist Churches shall be held once a year for devotion, fellowship, and counsel.

2. Wherever practicable, a United Lovefeast of the Members of the various Methodist Churches shall be held annually, on a Sunday afternoon. Where other arrangements will allow, Whit Sunday shall be chosen (1895, pp. 310, 311).

Tabular View of Methodist Statistics

The Conference resolves that a Tabular View of Methodist Statistics, similar to that found in the Methodist Kalendar, be included in the published *Minutes* of the Conference (1905, p. 98).

Methodist Assembly

The Conference resolves :

1. To invite the other Methodist Churches to a united Convention for united devotion, and with a view to mutual counsel and concerted action in regard to the

spiritual and social tasks which are laid upon Methodism, excluding all questions of polity and of party politics ; such Convention to be held in 1909.

2. That the Churches invited to take part in this Convention shall be those in Great Britain and Ireland, which are included in the Œcumenical Conference.

3. That the Convention shall consist of 500 delegates, a relative proportion being allocated to each Church according to the proportion of its membership, each Church bearing the expenses of its own delegates.

4. That invitations to the other Methodist Churches be issued inviting them to concur, and in that case to appoint Representatives to meet Representatives appointed by the Conference, with a view to considering the programme and arrangements for the Convention (1906, p. 110).

Connexional Local Preachers' Committee

A Connexional Committee, to be called the Local Preachers' Committee, shall be annually appointed by the Conference in its Representative Session ; the Committee to consist of an equal number of Ministers and Local Preachers.

The object of this Committee shall be to devise and take the general oversight of methods for maintaining the supply and increasing the efficiency of the Local Preachers ; so that our Circuit Work, particularly in Villages, may be successfully carried forward (1894, pp. 314, 315).

For *District Local Preachers' Committee* see pp. 97-99.

Local Preachers

1. Immediately after the May Synod, the Reports of

the District Local Preachers' Committees shall be sent to the Lay Secretary of the Connexional Committee, which shall report thereon to the Conference.

2. The Connexional Committee shall furnish a List of Books for guiding the studies of Local Preachers. It shall also prepare a Scheme of Voluntary Examinations, and the necessary Examination Papers.

3. The Connexional Committee shall put itself into communication with the Book-Room and other publishing Houses with a view to obtain books for Local Preachers on the cheapest terms; and shall also take into consideration the best method in which the Allan Library can be made available for Local Preachers.

A Lay Treasurer, a Ministerial Secretary, and a Lay Secretary of the Connexional Committee shall be annually appointed by the Conference (1895, p. 313).

Class Leaders

A Connexional Committee, to be called the Class Leaders' Committee, shall be annually appointed by the Conference in its Representative Session; the Committee to consist of an equal number of Ministers and Lay Class Leaders.

The object of this Committee shall be to devise and take the general oversight of methods for maintaining the supply and increasing the efficiency of the Class Leaders so that the Class Meeting may become yet more attractive and profitable (1903, pp. 363, 364). See p. 454.

Wesley Guild

See 1896, pp. 447-57; 1904, p. 114. See *Summary*, pp. 248-58.

Wesley Deaconess Institute

See 1901, pp. 95, 500-502. For *General Regulations*, see *Minutes*, 1908, pp. 523-30. For *Order of Service for the setting apart of Deaconesses* see *Minutes*, 1911, pp. 549-59. For *Women Preachers*, see *Summary*, p. 86.

Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund

The Conference approves the appropriation of the sum of £8,000 from the Thanksgiving Fund for the benefit of necessitous Local Preachers, to be invested, and the Interest distributed from time to time by a Committee to be appointed by the Conference, as they may deem best (1879, p. 272).

Trustees

1. A Trust shall be formed, consisting of seven persons, three of whom shall be Ministers, and four Laymen, to hold, invest, and apply the Grant from the Thanksgiving Fund for the benefit of necessitous Local Preachers, according to such Rules and Regulations as the Conference may from time to time direct.

2. The same Trustees shall be empowered, by a provision of the Trust Deed, to hold, invest, and apply, under the direction of the Conference, any other sums of money which may be hereafter given or bequeathed for the benefit of necessitous Local Preachers.

3. The Trust Deed shall provide for the filling up of any vacancy in the number of Trustees which may occur by death, or by any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary as a cause to be inserted in the Trust Deed disqualifying any Trustee from continuing upon the Trust.

4. The Conference empowers the Committee to

frame a Scheme for payments to necessitous Local Preachers (1881, p. 267).

N.B.—In 1882 the Conference approved of the insertion of the following Clause in the Trust Deed :

‘ The Trustees may from time to time accept any further sums which may be given or bequeathed for the purposes aforesaid, and shall hold the same upon any special Trusts and subject to any special conditions or directions which may be declared or imposed by the respective donors or testators, and, subject thereto, upon the same Trusts as are herein declared with respect to the said sum of eight thousand pounds ’ (1882, p. 291).

Committee

N.B.—The Conference, year by year, appoints the Committee, with power to appoint a small Executive Committee. See 1914, pp. 71, 72.

Income

N.B.—The Conference, year by year, directs the Trustees of the Fund to pay to the Committee the available Income of the current year, to be administered in accordance with the Scheme adopted by the Conference. See 1914, p. 71.

Religious Observance of the Lord's Day

For Committee see 1914, pp. 70, 71.

Convinced of the great and growing importance of a careful observance of the Lord's Day to the prosperity of the Church of Christ and of the Nation at large, the Conference appoints a Committee to watch over the

general interests of the Sabbath, to observe the course of events in reference to it, to collect such information as may serve the cause of Sabbath observance, to correspond with persons who are engaged in similar designs, and to report, from year to year, the results of their inquiries, with such suggestions as they may think proper to offer to the Conference (1848, vol. xi., p. 102). See p. 612.

Methodist Brotherhood

See pp. 30, 31.

Committee

See 1914, pp. 95, 96.

Common Cash

1. The Committee shall consist of the Officers of all the Funds included in the Common Cash arrangement.

2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Treasurers of the Missionary Society; the Treasurers and Deputy Treasurer of the Home Mission Fund; the Ministerial Treasurer of the Children's Fund; the Secretary of the London Mission and Extension Fund; and the Secretary of the Connexional Funds Office (Convenor).

3. The Tables of Profit Distribution and of Interest shall be printed in the *Minutes*.

4. No Building Scheme is admissible to the Common Cash arrangement.

5. The Temperance Department shall be admitted into the Common Cash Arrangement (1884, p. 273; 1885, pp. 260-62; 1886, p. 278; 1908, p. 100; 1909, pp. 103, 104; 1914, p. 100).

Reports of other Committees appointed by the previous Conference

See *Minutes* for current year.

Report of Committee on Memorials and Suggestions

See p. 566.

Resolutions provisionally adopted by the last Conference in its Representative Session

1. No new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed both of Ministers and Lay Representatives, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synods when Laymen are present, and until their Reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed.

N.B.—Nothing in this Resolution shall be so construed as to interfere with the rights of the Circuit Quarterly Meetings as set forth in the *Minutes of Conference*, 1797, vol i., p. 393, and 1852, vol. xii., p. 117 (1877, vol. xx., p. 424).

2. The Conference declares that inasmuch as the purpose of the Conference in submitting new legislation to the Synods is to ascertain their mind on the proposals laid before them, this provision of our Constitution permits them to suggest amendments to such legislation if they so desire (1912, p. 367). See pp. 462, 463.

Consideration of Remaining Notices of Motion

N.B.—Notices of Motion may have been previously dealt with in connexion with the business to which they had reference.

Payment of Collections and Subscriptions

1. The Chairmen of Districts are required to collect from all the Superintendents of Circuits in their respective Districts, whether those Superintendents be present at the Conference, or remain in their Circuits, the moneys due from them on account of the Collections and Subscriptions made in their several Circuits for the various Funds of the Connexion ; and to deliver the same in one sum, with the proper account of the particular items, to the Treasurers of those Funds respectively.

2. For this purpose the Treasurers and Secretaries of each Fund are directed to attend, in rooms to be appointed for that use, on the first, second, third, and fourth evenings of each Conference ; so that the business of receiving Collections may be transacted during the intervals of the public business of the Conference, and not during its actual sittings.

3. Similar arrangements shall be made by all the Treasurers of our Funds for the payment of moneys due at the time of the Conference, by meeting the Chairmen of Districts in regular order in the evenings, and then settling with them the accounts of the several Circuits which they represent ; so that this portion also of our financial business may be transacted out of the Conference, and no longer disturb or interrupt its regular proceedings.

4. The Superintendents of Circuits are peremptorily required to supply their respective Chairmen with their Collections and Accounts on or before the first day of the meeting of every Conference, so as to enable them to conform to the preceding Regulations. And the Chairmen are required to report without fail to the Conference, on the second day of its Annual Session, every Super-

intendent who shall have neglected this part of his official duty (1827, vol. vi., pp. 282, 283).

Financial Secretaries

It is agreed that a Financial Secretary shall be appointed to each District, whose office it shall be to transact with the General Treasurers of our various Funds all the financial business of the District to which he belongs (1831, vol. vii., p. 67). See p. 448.

PASTORAL SESSION

Time of Meeting

The Pastoral Session of the Conference shall meet on the Wednesday morning immediately following the close of the Representative Session, and the first Order of the Day shall be the President's Address (*Order and Form*, 1914, p. 641).

Conversation on the Work of God

Conversation and Prayer respecting the various aspects of the Work of God at Home and Abroad shall take place on the Thursday morning. The President may make some previous arrangement as to the person, or persons, who shall introduce this Conversation (*Order and Form*, 1914, p. 641).

Ministers under Suspension

A Preacher under suspension has no right to vote on any question in the Conference while his suspension is continued ; nor even to be present in its meetings, without leave, until his own case shall be brought forward (1835, vol. vii., p. 550).

Ireland

1. Q. When any one of the . . . Irish Brethren, who are of the Hundred, shall cease to be so by death, expulsion, or by being superannuated, how shall the vacancy be filled up?

A. By inserting in the Deed an Irish Preacher, to be elected and recommended for that purpose at the preceding Irish Conference; such election and recommendation being duly signified to us by their Representative, or in their Annual Letter (*Journal*, 1810).

2. In 1914, the Conference resolved that the Legal Hundred should be asked to confirm by a special vote any nomination of the Irish Conference, as in the case of those who are nominated in the Yearly Conference for membership in the Hundred (1914, p. 629).

See Report of the Committee on Methodist Law on 'the whole question of confirming the nomination of a member of the Irish Conference to the Legal Conference,' *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 627-9.

N.B.—Ten places in the Legal Conference are filled by members of the Irish Conference (*Journal*, 1877).

Scrutineers

For *Scrutineers of Conference votes*, and *Voting Papers*, see pp. 559, 560.

Vacancies in the Legal Conference caused by Superannuation

1. The declaration of vacancies caused by Superannuation shall be deferred until the meeting of the Conference in its Pastoral Session, and such vacancies shall then be filled up by election by the Legal Conference after nomination (1899, pp. 241, 242).

2. In regard to these vacancies the Legal Conference

shall formally declare by separate vote that certain Ministers, having been Supernumeraries for two years, and not having been Presidents of the Conference, cease to be members of the Legal Hundred, and that their places have to be filled up (*Journal*, 1877).

3. All Ministers in Full Connexion permitted to attend the Conference, and being present in its Pastoral Session, shall have the right of nominating, by ballot, any Preacher for admission into the number of the Hundred, and the Hundred shall be requested in such cases to elect the person so nominated as a member of the Legal Conference. No person shall be so elected who has not travelled at least fourteen years (*Journal*, 1814, 1815, 1869; 1899, p. 242).

4. Should the Conference, during its sittings, expel any member of the Legal Hundred, another Minister to supply his place shall be immediately elected, after nomination in the usual form (1902, pp. 510, 511; 1903, p. 525). See *Deed of Declaration*, p. 663.

Temporary Supernumeraryship in relation to the Legal Conference

In the case of a member of the Legal Conference who has been permitted to retire for one or for two years, he shall not thereby cease to be a member of the Legal Conference provided he then (that is to say, at the end of the first or second year) returns to the Full Work; and he shall remain a member of the Legal Conference for two years after becoming a Supernumerary permanently (1890, p. 212; 1895, p. 361).

Ministers without Pastoral Charge

In the case of a member of the Legal Conference having been entered on the *Minutes* as without pastoral

charge, in conformity with the Resolutions of the Conference of 1888, the Conference resolves that, at the expiration of four years from the commencement of such an arrangement, he shall cease to be a member of the Legal Conference.

The effect of this Resolution shall not be retrospective (1890, p. 212).

Nomination of the President and Secretary of the Ensuing Conference

1. All Ministers in Full Connexion permitted to attend the Conference, and being present in its Pastoral Session, shall have the right to vote in the nomination of the President and Secretary of the ensuing Conference.

2. The nomination of the President and Secretary shall be made by ballot vote by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference (1899, p. 242).

Method of Electing President and Secretary by Legal Conference

See pp. 561-63.

1. The number of one hundred members of the Legal Conference having been completed by the filling up of vacancies caused by death, or by absence for two successive years without dispensation, the Legal Conference shall proceed to choose its President and Secretary.

2. The Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the person nominated to the office of President and the person nominated to the office of Secretary by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference (1899, p. 242).

3. If the Legal Conference shall at any time negative either of the nominations of the preceding Conference, the Ministers who are members of the Conference in its

Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister for the office in question ; and the result of that nomination shall be submitted to the decision of the Legal Conference.

4. Should the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of President be declared by the Legal Conference at its first meeting, the Ministers who are members of the Conference in its Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister to the Office of President in the place of the Minister deceased or disqualified ; and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated.

5. Should the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of Secretary be declared by the Legal Conference at its first meeting, the Ministers who are members of the Conference in its Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall proceed by ballot vote to nominate another Minister to the office of Secretary in the place of the Minister deceased or disqualified ; and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated.

6. If, in the event of the death or disqualification of the Minister nominated to the office of the President, the Minister nominated by the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference to the office of Secretary should be chosen to be President of the Conference, the Ministers who are members of the Representative Session, being present in the Conference, shall nominate another Minister by ballot vote to the office of Secretary of the Conference, and the Legal Conference shall be requested to elect the Minister so nominated (1901, pp. 511, 512).

Appointment of Assistant Secretaries

See pp. 543, 582-85.

Hours of Session

See p. 564.

Memorials and Suggestions

See pp. 565-67.

Appeals in Cases of Discipline

1. The Conference declares its unalterable resolution to uphold the authority hitherto vested in its District Synods as intermediate and subordinate Courts of Inquiry and Appeal, both for the Ministers and the People ; whilst, to all parties duly respecting that authority, it still leaves unfettered the right of an ultimate appeal to the Conference (1851, vol. xi., p. 469).

2. As a general principle, before revising or altering any recommendation of a District Synod, the Chairman of the District involved should be heard by the Committee to whom the subject is referred (*Journal*, 1877).

3. All Final Appeals in matters of Discipline relating either to Ministers or Members shall remain within the exclusive province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only (1877, vol. xx., p. 422).

Forfeiture of Right of Appeal

N.B.—At the Conference of 1849, it was ruled that an accused Minister's *Right* of Appeal had been forfeited by his refusal to enter into the subject of the charge against him at the May District Synod. As a matter of favour, his appeal was heard (1849, vol. xi., p. 278). See 1835, vol. vii., p. 542.

Committee on Appeals and other Cases

At the commencement of the Pastoral Session of each Conference a Committee of twenty-one members shall be appointed, to whom shall be referred, without discussion :

(1) All cases, needing further inquiry, touching the Character of Ministers or Probationers, immediately after the reading of the Minutes of District Synods thereupon ;

(2) Any notice of Charge or Appeal relating thereto ;
or

(3) Any other matter which the Conference may so refer.

Any complainant or appellant, or any person under inquiry, may object to one in three of the members of the said Committee sitting on his case ; and some other member of the Conference shall then be appointed to act instead of the member so objected to.

Special cases may, if the Conference so decide, be referred to the whole Committee ; but it shall, for ordinary purposes, be divided into three sections, for each of which a Convener shall be appointed, who shall be responsible for preparing the business of the Committee (1873, vol. xix., p. 202).

Appeals in Cases of Discipline

No appeal shall be received after the completion of the year following the Conference immediately succeeding the act of discipline, except by special decision of the Conference (1891, p. 229).

See p. 40.

Ministers for whom no Appointment is made by Stationing Committee

See pp. 545, 546.

Committee on Chapel Cases which affect Discipline

See *Compendium of Regulations respecting Wesleyan Methodist Trust Property*, 1866, vol. xvi., pp. 562-71. See also *Summary*, pp. 601, 602.

The Pastoral Address

1. A sufficient time before the meeting of the Conference, the President for the time being shall have authority to appoint one of the Preachers to prepare a draft of the Pastoral Address to the Societies ; for which Address the President shall suggest the topics (*Journal*, 1841).

2. At each Conference a Committee shall be appointed to prepare the Pastoral Address for the following Conference. The President shall arrange with some Minister to write the Address as heretofore (*Order and Form*, 1914, p. 642).

3. The Conference resolves that in future the Pastoral Address, instead of being read, shall be printed and circulated during the Pastoral Session, so as to give a better opportunity for careful consideration (1909, p. 363).

Committee on Attendance at the Next Conference

N.B.—At each Conference a Committee is appointed to report upon the number of Ministers from each District who may attend the Conference when Ministers only are present ; and the number of Ministers from each District who may attend the Conference when Ministers and Laymen are present.

The number of Ministers in section (2) of the list contained in the *Minutes* each year does not include

members of the Legal Conference ; Chairmen of Districts who are not members of the Legal Conference ; Candidates for Ordination ; Ministers allocated to the Mission House ; Representatives of Departments, not being members of the Legal Conference ; the Precentor ; the Convener of Scrutineers ; and the Assistant Journal Secretary. See 1914, pp. 379, 380. See also pp. 464, 465.

Committee on the Cases of Ministers who have had Supplies during the Year

N.B.—At each Conference a Committee is appointed to report upon the cases of Ministers who have had Supplies during the year, the list to be furnished by the Ex-President. The Committee also reports on Supernumeraries returning to full work. See pp. 371, 381.

Committee to Consider Applications for the Services of Probationers on the List of Reserve

All applications for the services of Probationers on the List of Reserve shall be forwarded to the President of the Conference not later than July 1 in each year ; and a Committee to classify the cases shall meet during the Sessions of each Conference (see *Standing Orders in Minutes*, Part I.).

Conference Procedure

See pp. 586, 587.

Notices of Motion

N.B.—Notices of Motion should be presented not later than the second day of the Session ; but such Notices may be given subsequently, if occasion arise.

No Motion on any subject not before the Conference

in the ordinary course of its business can be considered until after twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given. Motions other than those which relate to the business which comes in due course before the Conference cannot be discussed earlier than Tuesday, except by a two-thirds vote of the Conference. See *Order and Form of the Business of the Conference*, 1914, p. 642.

Character of Ministers and Preachers on Trial

1. In response to the inquiry in the Conference, 'Is there any objection to any Minister or Preacher on Trial?' the names of the Districts only shall be called, the Chairman of each District then giving the required information. The right to challenge any name, or bring a charge against any Minister, shall not be affected by this Regulation (1887, p. 289).

2. No charge brought by one Preacher against another in the same District shall be heard in the Conference unless previously examined at the District Synod, if the matter alleged in such charge were then in existence; and all charges shall be previously announced, personally or in writing, to the Brother against whom they are directed (*Journal*, 1807). See p. 446.

3. Immediately after the question of Character has been considered by the Conference, there shall be a Report given by the Ex-President, by the Authorities of the Theological Institution, and by the Missionary Secretaries, of all Preachers whose names have been placed upon their several Lists (*Journal*, 1859). See pp. 285, 432, 433.

Private and Confidential

The Conference reaffirms its decision that subjects discussed in Conference in answer to the question, 'Is

there any objection to any of our Ministers or Preachers on Trial ? ' are to be regarded as strictly private and confidential (1898, p. 253).

Ministerial Resignations

In the event of any Brother determining to withdraw from the Ministry, he shall be expected in the first instance to intimate his resignation to the President (1914, p. 370).

Expulsion of Ministers

The Conference shall and may expel and put out from being a member thereof, or from being in connexion therewith, or from being on Trial, any person member of the Conference, or admitted into connexion, or upon Trial, for any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary ; and every member of the Conference so expelled and put out shall cease to be a member thereof to all intents and purposes as though he was naturally dead ; and the Conference immediately after the expulsion of any member thereof as aforesaid shall elect another person to be a member of the Conference in the stead of such member so expelled (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 663.

Suspended or Expelled Ministers, and Ministers who Resign while under Charges

See pp. 455, 456.

1. No Preacher who has been suspended or expelled shall on any account be employed as a Local Preacher without the authority of the Conference (1793, vol. i., p. 289 ; 1869, vol. xvii., p. 625).

2. No Preacher excluded for immorality, or who re-

signs his connexion with the Conference while under charges which affect his moral character, shall at any subsequent period be allowed to be a Local Preacher, Class Leader, or even a private Member of Society, without the consent of the Conference previously obtained (1817, vol. iv., p. 344; 1897, pp. 243, 244; 1898, p. 250).

Probationers Desisting from Travelling

Q. If any Preachers who have been received upon Trial, but not into Full Connexion, desist from travelling, what method shall be pursued concerning them?

A. They shall be dropped in perfect silence, unless they desist for want of health (1807, vol. ii., pp. 403, 404).

Ministers whose Names are on the Journal only

In the case of any Minister whose name is on the Journal only, the Conference shall, in each case, define his position, both in relation to the District Synod and to the discharge of Ministerial functions (*Journal*, 1872; *Minutes*, 1877, vol. xx., p. 515).

Certain Cases of Ministers under Discipline, and others for whom Circuits cannot be found

1. The Conference resolves to establish a Fund to deal with certain cases of Ministers under Discipline, and of others for whom Circuits cannot be found, viz.:

- (i.) Ministers under Discipline without private means, who cannot be assisted from the Auxiliary Fund without serious damage to that Fund.
- (ii.) Exceptional cases of Aged Ministers under Dis-

cipline, for whom an Annuity might be purchased.

- (iii.) Ministers for whom Circuits cannot be found, who might be induced by an immediate money payment (in addition to the amount returnable according to scale from the Annuitant Society) to sever their connexion with the Conference.
- (iv.) Other Ministers, in whose case an annual payment from this Fund might save the Conference from the necessity of appointing them to Circuits, or of bringing a charge upon the Auxiliary Fund.

2. The Conference directs the Committee of the Auxiliary Fund to consider the advisability of making payments in commutation of claims in the above cases (1893, p. 226).

N.B.—The Conference appoints a Committee, each year, 'to administer this Fund, and to deal with the cases as they arise.'

Ministers becoming Supernumeraries

See pp. 371–81.

1. In ordinary cases, no Preacher shall be declared a Supernumerary without the previous recommendation either of the District Synod to which he belongs, or of the Stationing Committee; of which recommendation, if the Preacher be not present when it is adopted, immediate notice shall be given to him by the Secretary of the Synod, that he may have time to state his objections, if he have any, to the ensuing Conference.

2. In particular cases, if the Conference deem it proper for special reasons that a Preacher should be

declared a Supernumerary, without the previous recommendation before specified, such Preacher shall be informed by letter, as speedily as possible, what is the judgement of the Conference concerning his case ; and he shall have the opportunity of making his appeal, if he think proper, personally or in writing, before the judgement be finally confirmed. In cases where that appeal cannot, for want of time to communicate with the person concerned, be heard in the Conference at which the proposal is made, it shall be heard and decided upon at the subsequent Conference ; and the declaration that the Preacher is a Supernumerary shall, in such case, be considered as only provisional for one year (*Journal*, 1832). See p. 374.

Special Entry in Minutes

On the retirement of Ministers, special entry in the Minutes of the Conference shall be made only in exceptional cases ; any record in the District Minutes to be read in the Conference (1907, p. 348).

Provision for Ministers Retiring for one Year

Each case shall be considered by a mixed Committee of seven members, who shall be appointed by the Conference, namely—the Ex-President, three Ministers, and three Laymen. Should the Conference deem it indispensable, a second year's Grant may be allowed (1870, vol. xviii., p. 151 ; 1878, p. 234). See pp. 373, 374.

Supernumeraries Returning to the Full Work

The Conference resolves that in all cases where it is recommended that Supernumerary Ministers shall return to the Full Work, inquiry and report shall be made by

the Committee appointed at Conference to examine the cases of those Ministers who have had Supplies during the year (1897, p. 244). See p. 381.

Supernumeraries Residing Abroad

See pp. 380, 381.

Supernumeraries Entering into Business

1. No Supernumerary entering into Business shall be entitled to receive anything from the Auxiliary Fund for a longer period than two years after he shall have so entered into Business.

2. Ministers entering into Business, and so retiring from the Work, shall not be entitled to receive the Allowances from any of our Funds on behalf of such Children as may be born before they enter into Business, for a longer period than two years ; and for such Children as may be born after their retirement, they have no claim whatever (*Journal*, 1852). See pp. 377-79.

Candidates on the President's List of Reserve

See pp. 301-303.

Students in the Theological Institution

See pp. 280-301.

Candidates Now Received

See pp. 279, 280.

Candidates' Allocation Committee

See pp. 280, 281.

Report on Examination of Preachers on Trial

See pp. 305-312.

Report of Committee on Oversight of Probationers

See p. 312.

Admission of Preachers into Full Connexion

See pp. 313, 314.

Ministers Received into Full Connexion from other Conferences and Churches

See pp. 317, 318.

In all cases in which Ministers or Preachers from other Churches apply for admission into our Ministry, a letter shall be sent to the Applicant, in case the Conference agrees to the application, specifying distinctly the terms on which the request is granted (*Journal*, 1866).

Reception of Preachers into Full Connexion

1. The Conference shall and may admit into connexion with them, or upon Trial, any person or persons whom they shall approve to be Preachers and Expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and direction of the Conference, the name of every such person or persons so admitted into connexion, or upon Trial as aforesaid, with the time and degrees of admission, being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 663.

2. After the Preachers, who have completed the period of their probation, shall have passed through the usual private and public Examinations, they shall be received into Full Connexion by the President of the Conference

for the time being, as has been customary (1813, vol. iii., p. 389). For *Probationers from the Welsh Districts* see p. 528.

Provincial Synods in Mission Field

In those areas of the Mission Field in which Provincial Synods have been established, the recommendation of the Provincial Synod shall be required . . . before a Candidate for admission into Full Connexion from a District within the Provincial area is received into Full Connexion with the Conference (*Journal*, 1905 ; *Minutes*, 1906, p. 15).

Form of Entry in Journal

The entry in the *Journal* and in the *Minutes* shall be in the form following, viz. :

Q. 1. Who are now admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference ?

A. (1) In Great Britain :

(2) In our Foreign Missions :

(a) Ministers sent out from this Country.

(b) Ministers admitted for service in the Countries specified, viz. :

(3) In Ireland.

Under Section (2) (a) of this Answer shall be entered the names of all Ministers who have been sent out by the Missionary Committee, and have a claim, on their return, to enter the Home Work.

Under Section (2) (b) shall be entered the names of all Ministers, whether Native or otherwise, who have been called into the Work on Foreign Stations. These have no claim to any appointment in this Country, or to any payments from Home Funds.

N.B.—If any Minister who has been admitted into Full Connexion with the Conference for service in a specified Country shall be appointed to service in another Country his Full Connexion with the Conference shall not be disturbed thereby (1891, pp. 231, 232 ; 1895, pp. 217, 218). See pp. 413, 414.

Status of Ministers in the West Indies and other specified Countries

See pp. 414, 415.

Ministers under Affiliated Conferences

1. British Ministers who have elected to remain in Full Connexion with the Yearly Conference whilst continuing to be employed under an Affiliated Conference must be held to be absolutely subject to the Affiliated Conference in all matters connected with the work and within the limits of that Conference ; but the question of their continued connexion with the Yearly Conference can be determined only by the vote of the Yearly Conference.

2. Any British Minister who has elected to enter into Full Connexion with an Affiliated Conference, or who may hereafter so enter, must be regarded as having thereby resigned his connexion with the Yearly Conference ; and the fact of such resignation shall be entered on the *Journal* of the Yearly Conference.

3. Ministers who were not sent out from England, but were taken into the ministry in the Districts now belonging to Affiliated Conferences, and also Native Ministers, were intended to be absolutely subject to the jurisdiction of their respective Affiliated Conferences. The Conference declares that they are so subject to the Affiliated Conferences, and that they have ceased to be

in connexion with the Yearly Conference ; and directs that complete lists of those Ministers shall be entered on the *Journal* of the Yearly Conference (1891, p. 231).

4. On the death of any Minister of an Affiliated Conference who had a right of return to this country, an Obituary shall be inserted in the Minutes of the Yearly Conference (1890, p. 211).

Probationers

See pp. 299, 300, 303-18.

Book-Room Affairs

It is understood that the Management of the Book-Room remains as at present [within the exclusive province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only] (1877, vol. xx., p. 423). See p. 669.

Nomination of Book Steward

The nomination of the Book Steward is to be made by the Book Committee (1906, p. 332).

Scheme of Management

1. A Board of Management shall be constituted, which shall determine all questions affecting the interests of the Book-Room during the year. The Board shall consist of five *ex-officio* and ten elected Ministers. The *ex-officio* members, the President, the Ex-President, the Secretary of the Conference, the Book Steward, and the Editor. Five of the elected members shall be chosen from the Ministers resident in London, and five from those in the country.

2. The Board of Management shall meet generally once a month ; oftener if necessary.

3. The profits of the Book-Room shall be devoted to the support of retired Ministers and Ministers' Widows ; to the Connexional Fund, and to such other objects as the Book Committee may recommend and the Conference approve, in such proportions as the Conference may decide ; due regard being had for the maintenance of a reserve fund as working capital for the Book-Room.

4. A General Book Committee shall be appointed, to meet annually during the Pastoral Session of the Conference. It shall receive the Report of the Board of Management, including the Balance Sheet, and prepare Resolutions thereon, if necessary, for the Conference ; it shall recommend in what proportion the profits of the year's business shall be divided ; and shall nominate the elected members of the Board of Management for the ensuing year.

5. This General Book Committee shall consist of the members of the Board of Management for the past year, of two Ministers from each District to be chosen by the Synod from among the Ministers authorized to attend either Session of the Conference, and the Senior Representative of the Irish Conference, with the Book Steward as Convener.

6. The Book Steward shall have control of the general business of the House, and in particular of its finances, subject always to the decisions of the Board of Management ; and shall be in regular consultation with the Editor on all matters affecting his department, such as outlay upon literary work, etc.

7. The Editor shall be responsible for all the publications of the House, theological and otherwise, and shall care for the development of the literary work of the House generally. He shall himself select readers of

MSS., who shall present their reports to him. The final decision as to publication shall in every case rest with the Board of Management. The Editor shall have an office on the Book-Room premises, with such clerical assistance as may be necessary (1905, pp. 355, 356).

Balance Sheet

1. Let the Book Steward, for the time being, annually present to the Conference a circumstantial account of the debts which shall, at that time, be owing to and from the Book-Room, and of the cash in hand ; that it may clearly appear what is the exact balance in favour of the concern (1804, vol. ii., p. 238).

2. The Conference resolves that for the future the Grants to Connexional Funds shall be paid out of the profits actually made during the Connexional year then ending, and not out of profits to be made, in part or wholly, during the year then ensuing (1804, vol. ii., p. 239 ; 1895, p. 214).

Book Accounts

Every Superintendent shall be required, not only finally to settle his Book Account for the preceding year at each Conference, but regularly to remit the money in his hands . . . to the Book Steward at Christmas, at Lady Day, and at Midsummer Day, and as much oftener as possible. The Book Committee is directed to use such means as it may find expedient for the full and impartial execution of this Rule (1821, vol. v., p. 248 ; 1895, p. 214).

Designation Committee

1. The Conference appoints a Committee, consisting of the President and Secretary of the Conference, the

Secretary of the Probationers' Examination Committee, and twenty other Ministers; five of whom shall be chosen by the Home Mission, the Foreign Missionary, and the Theological Institution Committees, respectively; one by the staff of each College from among themselves; and one by the Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly. The Secretary of the Conference is the Convener of the Committee.

2. This Committee shall sit prior to the Sessions of the Conference, to consider and report upon:

(1) The Designation of Students for Home or Foreign Work.

(2) All cases in which the Conference has determined that special Reports upon Probationers shall be presented to the ensuing Conference.

(3) All cases in which Probationers have been absent more than once during their Probation from the Annual Examination, and on the question of the Candidate's Ordination.

(4) All cases in which, owing to pressure of special work, Probationers have failed in their Examination for two successive years.

(5) The health and general fitness for our work of the men on the President's List of Reserve, and the results of the examination of accepted Candidates on the List of Reserve who have received appointments.

(6) The Reports of Superintendents concerning accepted Candidates resident in their Circuit who have not received an appointment.

(7) The number of Candidates required for the Ministry.

(8) Transfers, not including applications from other Churches (1896, p. 226; 1906, pp. 336, 337; 1907, pp. 345, 346).

Transfers from Foreign to Home Work

See p. 434.

Transfers from Welsh to English Work

1. In future no transfer of a Minister from the Welsh to the English Districts shall be made until the Home Mission Committee has had the opportunity of considering the case in its financial bearings, and has approved the same (1902, pp. 113, 114).

2. In the interests of our work amongst Welsh-speaking people, it is not desirable to encourage the transfer from work in Wales to work in England of Ministers who are able to preach in Welsh.

3. In cases of special application for such transfer, the Conference requires :

(i.) The opinion of the Welsh District Synod concerned and of the Welsh Assembly as to the advisability of the transfer, both upon the ground of personal fitness and also in view of the needs of Welsh Methodism.

(ii.) The recommendation of the Designation Committee after a personal interview with the applicant for transfer, and also after examination and test of preaching in English (1904, pp. 358, 359). See p. 645.

Designation and Appointment of Ministers to Departmental Offices

See pp. 392-96.

Stations

See p. 549.

N.B.—Stations are considered on the Monday morning of the third week of the Conference Sessions.

Ordination Service

See p. 314.

1. The Ordination Service shall take place in a different Chapel from that in which the Conference is held.

2. On such occasions . . . the Candidates shall kneel in front of the Communion rails to receive Ordination by the imposition of hands.

3. Immediately after the Ordination, the Ministers then ordained shall receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

For Form of Service see *Book of Public Prayers and Services*, pp. 269-79.

N.B.—When a Minister is ordained, he receives a Bible from the President, who says: 'Take thou authority to preach the Word of God, and to administer the Holy Sacraments in the congregation.'

A copy of the *Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline* is also presented to each newly-ordained Minister. On the fly-leaf of the volume the following words are written:

'As long as you freely consent to, and earnestly endeavour to walk by, these Rules, we shall rejoice to acknowledge you as a fellow labourer.'

The inscription is signed by the President and the Secretary of the Conference.

Ordination of Welsh Ministers

See pp. 314, 528.

In 1893 the Conference directed that Bibles in the Welsh language should be presented at the Ordination of Candidates employed in the Welsh Work (1893, p. 228).

Deaths of Ministers and Preachers on Trial

N.B.—The Conference shall, as a rule, hold the Memorial Service on the Tuesday evening of the third week of its Session. See 1914, p. 463.

1. The consideration of the Records of the deceased Brethren shall be regarded and observed as a strictly Religious Service; and whilst this solemn business is being transacted, no Committees of the Conference shall meet.

2. The Obituaries of deceased Ministers, received by the District Synods, shall be revised by a Special Committee, to be appointed at the preceding Conference.

3. The Obituaries thus revised shall be printed for the use of the Conference, under the direction of the Special Committee; and the official reading of these Records shall be discontinued.

4. The Obituary Notices of Ministers who have died since the May District Synods shall be revised by the Special Committee; and, if possible, be printed and presented at the same time as those which have been submitted to the District Synods.

5. The List of the names of deceased Ministers shall be read by the Secretary of the Conference (1891, p. 230; 1906, pp. 361, 533).

Obituaries of Welsh Ministers

See p. 527.

Obituaries of Ministers under Affiliated Conferences

See p. 642.

Pastoral Address

See p. 631.

Reports of Committees

See p. 678.

Committee on Methodist Law and other Matters

The Conference appoints a Standing Committee to consider Pastoral questions which concern the Laws of the Connexion, and other matters relating to Methodist Legislation and Administration which require special attention (1902, p. 358).

Election of Chairmen of Districts

See p. 444.

Appointment of Financial Secretaries

See pp. 448, 624.

Report of Memorials Committee

See pp. 565-67.

Revision and Confirmation of Stations

See p. 549.

Pastoral Reports of Schools

See p. 678.

Arrangements for Examination of Candidates for the Ministry

See pp. 262-64, 275-77.

Official Appointments

See pp. 650-52.

Honorary Deputations to other Conferences are appointed by the Representative Session. See p. 607.

The Delegate in Ireland

1. Both in regard to the appointment of the Delegate and the entry of the proceedings of the Irish Conference in the *Journal* there shall be, in future, a more exact conformity to the requirements of the Deed of Declaration.

2. One of the Ministers appointed by the Conference from year to year shall be one of the Irish members of the Legal Hundred, to be nominated by the Irish Conference, and presented to the British Conference by the Irish Representatives; and the same Minister shall not be nominated in two successive years. The Minister so nominated shall, when appointed, have charge of the List of Reserve for Ireland, and authority to supply vacancies from that List; and, in the absence of the President and the Ex-President, shall preside in the Connexional Committees held in the intervals between the meeting of the Conference in England, and that of the Committees preparatory to the ensuing Irish Conference (*Journal*, 1867.)

3. The Form of the appointment shall, in future, be as follows:

Question. Whom do we appoint to be our Delegate in Ireland?

Answer. Our President, the Rev. _____; or, in his unavoidable absence, one of the following Ministers: the Rev. _____, Ex-President; the Rev. _____ and the Rev. _____, nominated by the Irish Conference; the Rev. _____, or the Rev. _____.

N.B.—1. The President, or other Minister acting as Delegate under the authority of the preceding appoint-

ment, who shall preside at the next Conference in Ireland, shall exercise the powers confided to him under and by virtue of the thirteenth clause of Mr. Wesley's Deed Poll, dated February 28, 1784.

The Rev. _____, the Ex-President, the Rev. _____, and the Rev. _____, are appointed to accompany the President to the Conference in Ireland, which will commence in _____ on _____ (1876, vol. xx., pp. 106, 107 ; 1908, p. 353).

4. On the suggestion of the Irish Conference, to avoid the difficulty that might arise in the signing of the Journal of the Irish Conference, in the event of the death of the Vice-President of the Irish Conference and the absence of all the Delegates from the British Conference, the Conference resolves to add the name of the surviving Ex-Vice-President to the other names in the delegation (1908, p. 353).

5. After the present year [1811] this Conference will not appoint the same Preacher to preside in the Irish Conference for two years successively (*Journal*, 1811).

N.B.—The Representative Session of the Conference appoints a Layman to attend the Representative Session of the Conference in Ireland in conjunction with the Ministers appointed during the Pastoral Session. See 1914, p. 86.

President of the French Conference

See *Minutes*, 1914, p. 334.

President of the South African Conference

The South African Conference, so long as it continues to be affiliated to the Yearly Conference, shall have the right, in its Ministerial Session, to nominate a Minister to

be the President of the next South African Conference; but the appointment to that office shall rest with the Yearly Conference. If, in any case, the Minister nominated by the South African Conference be not appointed by the Yearly Conference, the President of the preceding South African Conference shall continue in office until a successor is duly nominated and appointed (1882, p. 211). See *Minutes*, 1914, p. 334.

Isle of Man District Synod

See 1914, p. 335.

Welsh Wesleyan Methodist Assembly

See pp. 525, 526.

Provisional Legislation of the preceding Conference

See pp. 462, 463.

Discipline Committees

See pp. 287-90, 432, 433.

Scrutineers of Conference Votes

1. At each Conference in Pastoral Session, a Convener of Scrutineers shall be appointed to take charge of the voting for the Legal Conference, and for the offices of President and Secretary, at the succeeding Conference; and such Convener shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Pastoral Session of the Conference for which he is elected.

N.B.—The Convener is also a member of the Representative Session. See p. 553.

2. The Committee of Scrutineers, annually appointed, shall consist of not less than twenty, and shall make all

arrangements for the collecting and counting of votes (1892, p. 217).

Voting Papers

Distinctive voting papers shall be prepared for the use of the members of the Legal Conference, in the elections to the Legal Hundred and to the offices of President and Secretary of the Conference (1893, p. 228).

Reports of Special Committees appointed by the preceding Conference

See *Minutes* of preceding Conference.

Committee on Attendance of Ministers at the next Conference

See pp. 631, 632.

Consideration of Remaining Notices of Motion

N.B.—Notices of Motion may have been previously dealt with in connexion with the business to which they had reference.

Acts of the Conference Delegate in Ireland

1. For the convenience of the Chapels and premises already or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the Trusts aforesaid, situate in Ireland or other parts out of the Kingdom of Great Britain, the Conference shall, and may, when and as often as it shall seem expedient, but not otherwise, appoint and delegate any member or members of the Conference with all or any of the powers, privileges, and advantages hereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference; and all and every the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments whatsoever of such member or members of the Conference so appointed and delegated as aforesaid, the same

being put into writing and signed by such delegate or delegates, and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, and subscribed as after mentioned, shall be deemed, taken, and be the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments of the Conference to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever from the respective times when the same shall be done by such delegate or delegates, notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary (*The Deed of Declaration*). See p. 664.

2. The Delegate in Ireland, to be appointed from year to year, shall bring in writing a complete statement of all acts done by him as Delegate, signed by himself; and the same shall be duly entered in the Journal of the Conference as his acts, and signed by the President and Secretary of the Conference for the time being (*Journal*, 1876). See p. 664. See also Report of the Committee on Methodist Law, 1914, pp. 627-29.

Nominations of Senior Ministers for Election into the Legal Conference

See p. 560.

Duration of the Conference

The duration of the yearly assembly of the Conference shall not be less than five days, nor more than three weeks, and be concluded by the appointment of the Conference if under twenty-one days, or otherwise the conclusion thereof shall follow of course at the end of the said twenty-one days, the whole of all which said time of the assembly of the Conference shall be had, taken, considered, and be the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists, and all acts of the Conference during such yearly assembly thereof shall be the acts of the

Conference, and none other (*The Deed of Declaration*).
See p. 662.

Reading and Confirmation of the Conference Journal

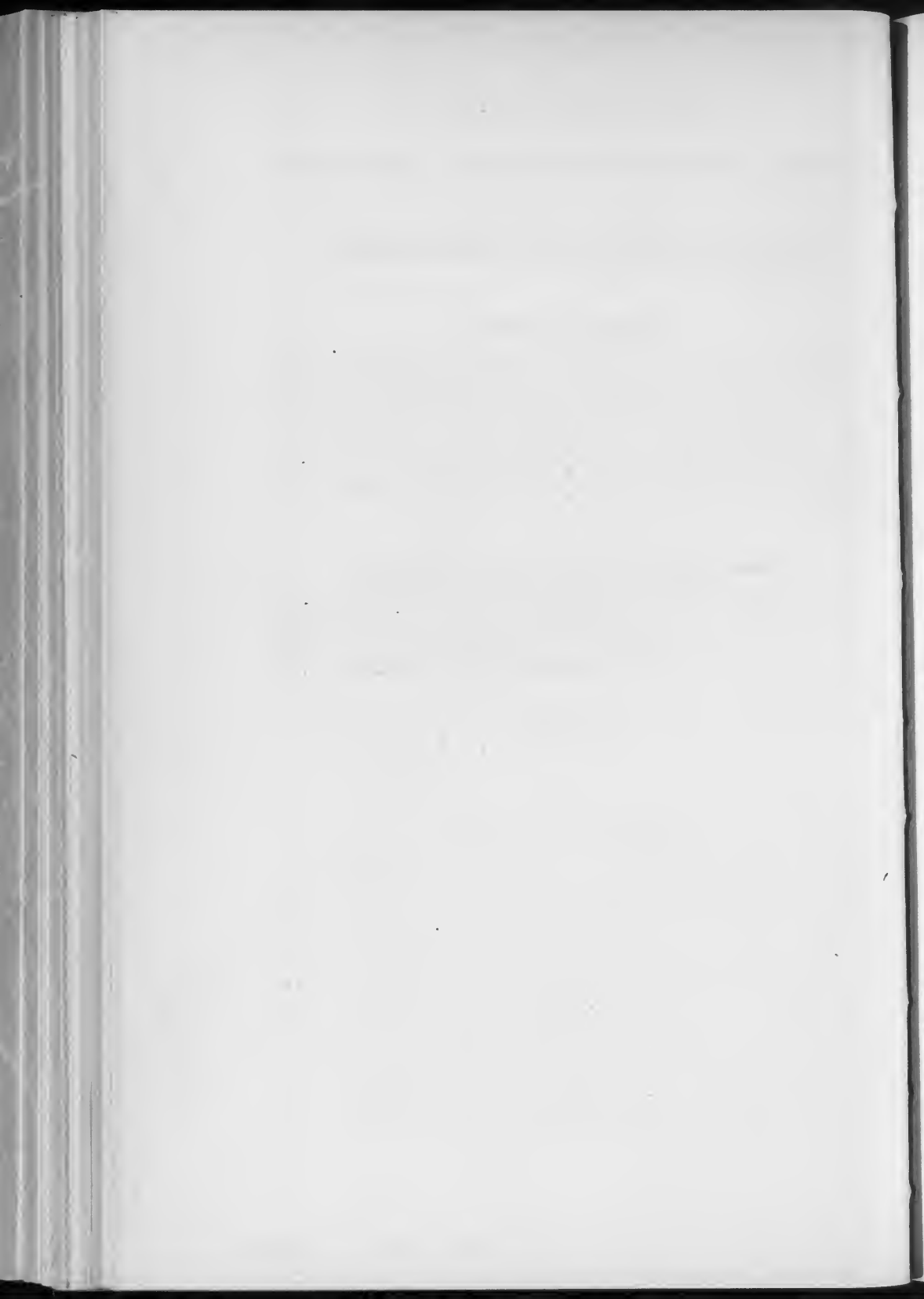
See p. 664.

Signing the Journal

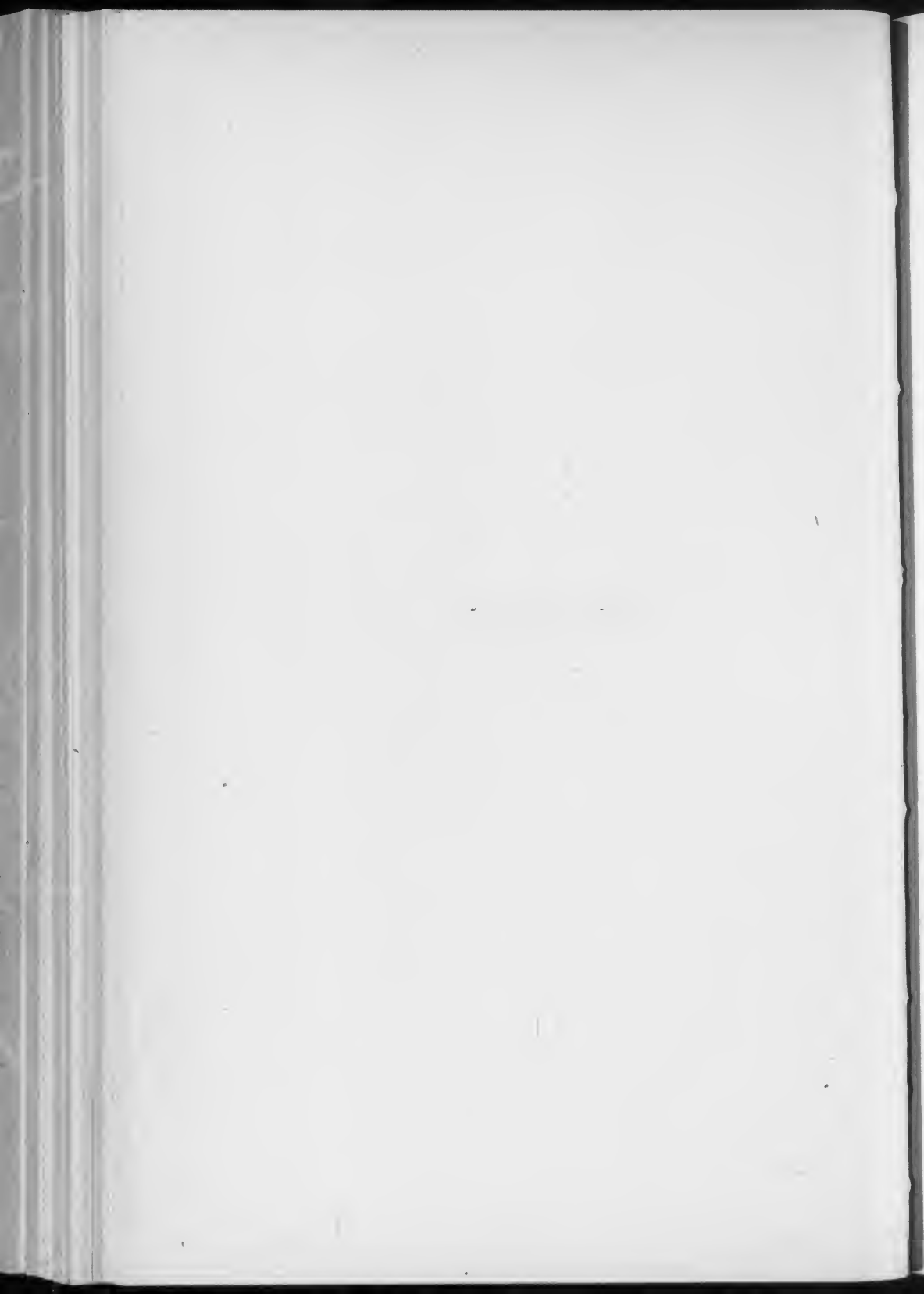
At least forty of the one hundred Preachers composing the Legal Conference shall be required to remain after the close of the Full Conference to witness the signing of the Conference Journal by the President and Secretary (*Journal*, 1838). See *The Deed of Declaration*, p. 662.

Leaving Conference before Business is Finished

Those who leave the Conference before the business is all finished, and the Journal signed, must not complain, whatever may be done after their departure (1796, vol. i., p. 361).



APPENDIX



I

Deed Poll or Deed of Declaration of the Reverend John Wesley

To all to whom these presents shall come, John Wesley, late of Lincoln College, Oxford, but now of the City Road, London, Clerk, sendeth greeting :

Whereas divers buildings, commonly called chapels, with a messuage and dwelling-house or other appurtenances to each of the same belonging, situate in various parts of Great Britain, have been given and conveyed from time to time by the said John Wesley to certain persons and their heirs in each of the said gifts and conveyances named, which are inrolled in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, upon the acknowledgement of the said John Wesley, pursuant to the Act of Parliament in that case made and provided, upon trust that the Trustees in the said several deeds respectively named, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being to be elected, as in the said deeds is appointed, should permit and suffer the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should for that purpose from time to time nominate and appoint at all times during his life at his will and pleasure, to have and enjoy the free use and benefit of the said premises, that he, the said John Wesley, and such person and persons as he should nominate and appoint, might therein preach and expound God's Holy Word ; and upon further trust, that the said respective Trustees, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being, should permit and suffer Charles Wesley, brother of the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as the said Charles Wesley should for that purpose from time to time nominate and appoint, in like manner during his life, to have, use, and enjoy the said premises respectively for the like purposes as aforesaid, and after

the decease of the survivor of them the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, then upon further trust that the said respective Trustees, and the survivors of them, and their heirs and assigns, and the Trustees for the time being for ever, should permit and suffer such person and persons, and for such time and times as should be appointed at the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists in London, Bristol, or Leeds, and no others, to have and enjoy the said premises for the purposes aforesaid: And whereas divers persons have in like manner given or conveyed many chapels, with messuages and dwelling-houses or other appurtenances to the same belonging, situate in various parts of Great Britain, and also in Ireland, to certain Trustees in each of the said gifts and conveyances respectively named, upon the like trusts and for the same uses and purposes as aforesaid (except only that in some of the said gifts and conveyances no life estate or other interest is therein or thereby given and reserved to the said Charles Wesley): And whereas, for rendering effectual the trusts created by the said several gifts or conveyances, and that no doubt or litigation may arise with respect unto the same or the interpretation and true meaning thereof, it has been thought expedient by the said John Wesley, on behalf of himself as donor of the several chapels, with the messuages, dwelling-houses, or appurtenances before mentioned, as of the donors of the said other chapels, with the messuages, dwelling-houses, or appurtenances to the same belonging, given or conveyed to the like uses and trusts, to explain the words Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists contained in all the said trust deeds, and to declare what persons are members of the said Conference, and how the succession and identity thereof is to be continued:

Now, therefore, these presents witness, that for accomplishing the aforesaid purposes the said John Wesley doth hereby declare that the Conference of the people called Methodists in London, Bristol, or Leeds, ever since there hath been any Yearly Conference of the said people called Methodists in any of the said places, hath always heretofore consisted of the preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, commonly called Methodist preachers, in connexion with and under the care of the said John Wesley, whom he hath thought expedient year after year to summons to meet him in one or other of the said places of London, Bristol, or Leeds, to advise with them for the promotion of the

Gospel of Christ, to appoint the said persons so summoned, and the other preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, also in connexion with and under the care of the said John Wesley, not summoned to the said Yearly Conference, to the use and enjoyment of the said chapels and premises so given and conveyed upon trust for the said John Wesley, and such other person and persons as he should appoint during his life as aforesaid, and for the expulsion of unworthy and admission of new persons under his care and into his connexion to be preachers and expounders as aforesaid, and also of other persons upon trial for the like purposes, the names of all which persons so summoned by the said John Wesley, the persons appointed, with the chapels and premises to which they were so appointed, together with the duration of such appointments, and of those expelled or admitted into connexion or upon trial, with all other matters transacted and done at the said Yearly Conference, have year by year been printed and published under the title of Minutes of Conference ; and these presents further witness and the said John Wesley doth hereby avouch and further declare, that the several persons hereinafter named, to wit [*here follow the names and descriptions of one hundred persons*], being preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word under the care and in connexion with the said John Wesley, have been and now are and do on the day of the date hereof constitute the members of the said Conference according to the true intent and meaning of the said several gifts and conveyances wherein the words Conference of the people called Methodists are mentioned and contained, and that the said several persons before named and their successors for ever, to be chosen as hereafter mentioned, are and shall for ever be construed, taken, and be the Conference of the people called Methodists ; nevertheless upon the terms and subject to the regulations hereinafter prescribed ; (that is to say,)

First. That the members of the said Conference, and their successors for the time being for ever, shall assemble once in every year at London, Bristol, or Leeds (except as after-mentioned) for the purposes aforesaid, and the time and place of holding every subsequent Conference shall be appointed at the preceding one, save that the next Conference after the date hereof shall be holden at Leeds, in Yorkshire, the last Tuesday in July next.

Second. The act of the majority in number of the Conference

assembled as aforesaid shall be had, taken, and be the act of the whole Conference to all intents, purposes, and construction whatsoever.

Third. That after the Conference shall be assembled as aforesaid, they shall first proceed to fill up all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence as after-mentioned.

Fourth. No act of the Conference assembled, as aforesaid, shall be had, taken, or be the act of the Conference until forty of the members thereof are assembled, unless reduced under that number by death since the prior Conference or absence as after-mentioned, nor until all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence shall be filled up by the election of new members of the Conference so as to make up the number one hundred, unless there be not a sufficient number of persons objects of such election, and during the assembly of the Conference there shall always be forty members present at the doing of any act, save as aforesaid, or otherwise such act shall be void.

Fifth. The duration of the yearly assembly of the Conference shall not be less than five days, nor more than three weeks, and be concluded by the appointment of the Conference if under twenty-one days, or otherwise the conclusion thereof shall follow, of course, at the end of the said twenty-one days, the whole of all which said time of the assembly of the Conference shall be had, taken, considered, and be the Yearly Conference of the people called Methodists, and all acts of the Conference during such yearly assembly thereof shall be the acts of the Conference, and none other.

Sixth. Immediately after all the vacancies occasioned by death or absence are filled up by the election of new members as aforesaid, the Conference shall chuse a President and Secretary of their assembly out of themselves, who shall continue such until the election of another President or Secretary in the next or other subsequent Conference, and the said President shall have the privilege and power of two members in all acts of the Conference during his presidency, and such other powers, privileges, and authorities as the Conference shall from time to time see fit to entrust into his hands.

Seventh. Any member of the Conference absenting himself from the yearly assembly thereof for two years successively without the consent or dispensation of the Conference, and be not

present on the first day of the third yearly assembly thereof at the time and place appointed for the holding of the same, shall cease to be a member of the Conference from and after the said first day of the third yearly assembly thereof to all intents and purposes as though he were naturally dead ; but the Conference shall and may dispense with or consent to the absence of any member from any of the said yearly assemblys for any cause which the Conference may see fit or necessary, and such member, whose absence shall be so dispensed with or consented to by the Conference, shall not by such absence cease to be a member thereof.

Eighth. The Conference shall and may expel and put out from being a member thereof, or from being in connexion therewith, or from being upon trial, any person member of the Conference or admitted into connexion, or upon trial, for any cause which to the Conference may seem fit or necessary, and every member of the Conference so expelled and put out shall cease to be a member thereof to all intents and purposes as though he was naturally dead, and the Conference immediately after the expulsion of any member thereof as aforesaid shall elect another person to be a member of the Conference in the stead of such member so expelled.

Ninth. The Conference shall and may admit into connexion with them, or upon trial, any person or persons whom they shall approve to be preachers and expounders of God's Holy Word, under the care and direction of the Conference, the name of every such person or persons so admitted into connexion, or upon trial as aforesaid, with the time and degrees of the admission, being entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference.

Tenth. No person shall be elected a member of the Conference who has not been admitted into connexion with the Conference as a preacher and expounder of God's Holy Word as aforesaid for twelve months.

Eleventh. The Conference shall not nor may nominate or appoint any person to the use and enjoyment of or to preach and expound God's Holy Word in any of the chapels and premises so given or conveyed, or which may be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, who is not either a member of the Conference or admitted into connexion with the same, or upon trial as aforesaid, nor appoint any person for more than three years successively to the use and enjoyment of any chapel and premises already given

or to be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, except ordained ministers of the Church of England.

Twelfth. That the Conference shall and may appoint the place of holding the yearly assembly, at any other city, town, or place than London, Bristol, or Leeds, when it shall seem expedient so to do.

Thirteenth. And for the convenience of the chapels and premises already, or which may hereafter be given or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, situate in Ireland or other parts out of the kingdom of Great Britain, the Conference shall and may, when and as often as it shall seem expedient, but not otherwise, appoint and delegate any member or members of the Conference, with all or any of the powers, privileges, and advantages hereinbefore contained or vested in the Conference, and all and every the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments whatsoever of such member or members of the Conference so appointed and delegated as aforesaid, the same being put into writing and signed by such delegate or delegates, and entered in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, and subscribed as after mentioned, shall be deemed, taken, and be the acts, admissions, expulsions, and appointments of the Conference to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever from the respective times when the same shall be done by such delegate or delegates, notwithstanding anything herein contained to the contrary.

Fourteenth. All resolutions and orders touching elections, admissions, expulsions, consents, dispensations, delegations, or appointments and acts whatsoever of the Conference shall be entered and written in the Journals or Minutes of the Conference, which shall be kept for that purpose, publicly read, and then subscribed by the President and Secretary thereof for the time being during the time such Conference shall be assembled, and when so entered and subscribed shall be had, taken, received, and be the acts of the Conference, and such entry and subscription as aforesaid shall be had, taken, received, and be evidence of all and every such acts of the said Conference and of their said delegates without the aid of any other proof, and whatever shall not be so entered and subscribed as aforesaid shall not be had, taken, received, or be the act of Conference; and the said President and Secretary are hereby required and obliged to enter and subscribe as aforesaid every act whatever of the Conference.

Lastly. Whenever the said Conference shall be reduced under the number of forty members, and continue so reduced for three yearly assemblies thereof successively, or whenever the membership thereof shall decline or neglect to meet together annually for the purposes aforesaid during the space of three years, that then and in either of the said events the Conference of the people called Methodists shall be extinguished, and all the aforesaid powers, privileges, and advantages shall cease, and the said chapels and premises, and all other chapels and premises, which now are or hereafter may be settled, given, or conveyed upon the trusts aforesaid, shall vest in the Trustees for the time being of the said chapels and premises respectively, and their successors for ever; upon trust that they and the survivors of them, and the Trustees for the time being, do, shall, and may appoint such person or persons to preach and expound God's Holy Word therein, and to have the use and enjoyment thereof for such time and in such manner as to them shall seem proper.

Provided always, that nothing herein contained shall extend or be construed to extend, to extinguish, lessen, or abridge the life estate of the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, or either of them, of and in any of the said chapels and premises, or any other chapels and premises, wherein they, the said John Wesley and Charles Wesley, or either of them, now have or may have any estate or interest, power or authority whatsoever.

In witness whereof the said John Wesley hath hereunto set his hand and seal, the twenty-eighth day of February in the twenty-fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Third, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty-four.

JOHN WESLEY.

Sealed and delivered (being first duly stamped) in the presence of	{	WILLIAM CLULOW, Quality Court, Chancery Lane, London. RICHARD YOUNG, Clerk to the said William Clulow.
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Taken and acknowledged by the Rev. John Wesley, party hereto, this 28th February, 1784, at the Public Office before me.

EDWARD MONTAGU.

For copies of the Deed see *Journal*, 1784, pp. 2-11; and *Minutes*, 1876, vol. xx., pp. 256-62.

II

Scheme of Lay Representation in the Conference

I.—The Conference, when considering such matters as are hereinafter declared to be within the province of Ministers and Laymen, acting conjointly, shall consist of the President of the Conference and of 300 Ministers and 300 Laymen (1900, p. 338).

(i.) The Ministerial members of the Conference, when the Lay Representatives are present, shall be, in addition to the President and all other members of the Legal Conference for the time being who shall have declared at the May Meeting of the District Synod their intention to attend the Conference:

(a) Any Assistant Secretary of the Conference who is not a member of the Legal Conference.

(b) All Chairmen of Districts in Great Britain who are not members of the Legal Conference.

(c) Eight Ministers in Full Connexion, stationed in Foreign Districts, who may be in England at the time of the sitting of the Conference, to be chosen by the Missionary Committee.

(d) If in any year any Department would not, in the judgment of the Conference, be adequately represented by members of the Legal Conference, provision shall be made for the Ministerial Representation of such Department by the preceding Conference when consisting of Ministers only.

(e) The remaining Ministerial members of the Conference, when composed of Ministers and Laymen, shall be elected at the Annual Meetings in May of the District Synods in Great Britain, as follows:

The Ministerial members of each District Synod shall elect by ballot, after nomination, from among the whole number of Ministers in any District who may express their desire to attend the Conference, so many Ministers as were allocated by the preceding Conference to represent the District in the

Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen (1886, p. 199; 1890, p. 324).

N.B.—The newly elected members of the Legal Conference in each year shall be members of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

(ii.) No Layman shall be eligible as a Representative, whether elected annually by the Conference or by the May Meeting of the District Synod, unless he be a Member of Society of five years' continuous standing, and, at the time of his election by the Conference or nomination in the District Synod, a holder of office as a Trustee of Connexional Property, a member of a Circuit Quarterly Meeting, or a member of a District Synod. Any Layman nominated in a District Synod must be a Member of Society in some Circuit within that District. Duly qualified and elected women shall be eligible as Lay Representatives to the Conference.

(a) One-fifth of the Lay Representatives shall be elected annually by the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen. This number shall in all cases include the Lay Treasurers for the time being of the following General Connexional Funds, namely, the Missionary Society, the General Chapel Fund, the Ministers' Children's Fund in both its sections, the Home Mission Fund, the Theological Institution Fund, the Education Fund, the Auxiliary Fund, the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund, the Extension of Methodism Fund, the National Children's Home and Orphanage, the London Mission, the Temperance Committee, the Local Preachers' Committee, and the Sunday School Department.

N.B.—In future appointments not more than one Lay Treasurer of any Connexional Fund shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Representative Session of the Conference. For the present the Treasurer of the Metropolitan Chapel Building Fund and of the London Mission, which are now united as "The London Committee," shall be *ex-officio* members of the Conference (1909, p. 112).

One-third of the remaining number elected by the Conference shall retire annually, and the Lay Representatives so retiring shall not be immediately eligible for re-election by the Conference (1880, pp. 334, 335).

(b) For the present, the election of the remaining Lay

Representatives to the Conference shall be by the separate vote of the Laymen, taken by ballot after nomination, in the May Meetings of the District Synods ; such nomination to be by the Lay members only. The Circuit Stewards of each Circuit shall be called upon at the March Quarterly Meeting to declare their ability and willingness to attend the ensuing Annual Meeting of the District Synod in May, or the contrary. If they, or either of them, shall declare inability or unwillingness to attend the said District Synod, the Quarterly Meeting shall have the right of electing, by and from its own members by open vote or by ballot, after nomination by Lay members of the Meeting, a Representative or Representatives, to supply the vacancy or vacancies so created (1893, p. 319).

(c) The number of Laymen to be elected in each District shall be determined by each preceding Conference when consisting of Ministers and Laymen.

II.—For *Order and Form of Business* to be transacted by the Conference see pp. 671-79.

III.—The deliberations of the Conference, when consisting of Ministers and Laymen, shall be confined to the duly appointed members of that Conference ; but any Minister permitted by the District Synod to attend the Conference when composed of Ministers only, may be present during the Session of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen ; and the Lay members of Connexional Committees may be present during the proceedings of the Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen. Seats for the purpose shall be reserved for such Ministers and Laymen. The admission of any other persons shall be determined and arranged according to circumstances at the discretion of the Conference. See *Minutes*, 1914, pp. 630-33.

IV.—The following subjects shall remain within the exclusive province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only, viz.:

(i.) The formal constitution of the Conference ; filling up vacancies in the Legal Conference ; election of the President and Secretary ; and the appointment of other Officers of the Conference.

(ii.) Ministerial Lists ; Admission and Continuance of Preachers on Trial ; Arrangements for the Examination of

Candidates and of Preachers on Trial ; Admission into Full Connexion and Ordination.

(iii.) All questions affecting Ministerial character and ability, and of discipline arising thereupon, or in any wise relating thereto.

(iv.) All Final Appeals in matters of discipline relating either to Ministers or Members.

(v.) Ministers becoming Supernumeraries ; Supernumeraries returning to the work.

(vi.) Obituaries.

(vii.) Stations, and all appointments of Ministers.

(viii.) Pastoral consideration of the number and state of the Societies and Pastoral Address.

(ix.) Pastoral Reports : Kingswood School, Southport School, Taunton College, the Leys School, Cambridge, Rydal Mount School, Colwyn Bay, and any similar Institution.

(x.) Supervision of Connexional Literature.

(xi.) Conduct of Public Worship in accordance with the Rules and Usages of the Connexion.

(xii.) And all Ministerial and Pastoral subjects of like nature with any of those specified in this Resolution, or affecting the Ministerial or Pastoral supervision of the Connexion.

N.B.—It is understood that the Management of the Book Room remains as at present.

V.—The following subjects shall come within the province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers and Lay Representatives, viz. : The business now classed in the printed *Minutes* of the Conference, under the several heads of :

(i.) Time and Place for holding the next Conference.

(ii.) Official Appointments, Deputations, and Delegations.

(iii.) Home and Foreign Missionary Deputations.

(iv.) Nomination of Ministers for Designation or Appointment to Departmental Offices.

(v.) Committees of Privileges and Exigency.

(vi.) Missions (Foreign).

(vii.) Schools : Kingswood and Southport.

(viii.) Chapel Affairs : (a) General Fund ; (b) South Wales District Chapel Fund ; (c) First and Second North Wales District Chapel Funds ; (d) The Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland ; and (e) The London Mission and Extension Fund.

(ix.) The Children's Fund.

(x.) The Home Mission Fund: (a) General Committee; (b) Army and Navy Board; (c) Seamen's Mission; (d) London Mission; (e) Manchester and Salford and any similar Mission; (f) The Connexional Fund.

(xi.) The Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund.

(xii.) The Wesleyan Theological Institution.

(xiii.) Education: The (a) General Committee; (b) Connexional Sunday School Department; (c) National Children's Home and Orphanage.

(xiv.) Higher Education.

(xv.) Religious observance of the Lord's Day.

(xvi.) Temperance.

Also all questions relating to—

(xvii.) District Sustentation Funds.

And also—

(xviii.) Proposed Alterations and Divisions of Circuits and Districts (1889, p. 298).

N.B.—The Conference, when consisting of Ministers only, shall have power to consider and decide all questions as to alterations and divisions of Circuits or Districts on which the Quarterly Meetings and District Synods shall be agreed, and against which there is no appeal; and also all propositions for the calling out of additional Ministers which shall have received the sanction of the Home Mission Committee.

(xix.) And all financial and general subjects of like nature with any of those specified in this Resolution, or affecting the financial or general affairs of the Connexion.

But all matters connected with, or arising out of, the consideration or decision of the subjects specified in this Resolution which in the foregoing Resolution are stated to be within the province of the Conference when consisting of Ministers only, shall be considered and decided accordingly.¹

¹ The lists of subjects remaining within the exclusive province of the Conference, when consisting of Ministers only, and when consisting of Ministers and Lay Representatives, have been revised in accordance with the changes that have been introduced by the authority of the Conference up to the present time; but they should be compared with the *Order and Form of the Business of the Conference*. See pp. 672-79.

VI.—The consideration and determination of all questions raised by any Resolutions of District Synods, or by Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings, or otherwise, shall come within the province of the Conference when exclusively Ministerial, or when the Lay Representatives shall be present, according to the subject-matter thereof respectively. In all cases in which there may be any doubt as to the province to which a matter belongs, the President shall decide.

VII.—No new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed of Ministers only, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synods, when Ministers only are present, and until their Reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed; and no new law on any subject within the province of the Conference when composed both of Ministers and Lay Representatives, proposed during any Conference, shall come into force until it shall have been submitted to the District Synods when Laymen are present, and until their Reports, if any, shall have been considered, and such law shall have been confirmed by the next Conference when so composed.

N.B.—Nothing in this Resolution shall be so construed as to interfere with the rights of the Circuit Quarterly Meetings as set forth in *The Minutes of Conference*, 1797, vol. i., p. 393, and 1852, vol. xii., p. 117 (1877, vol. xx., pp. 419-24).

ORDER AND FORM OF THE BUSINESS OF THE CONFERENCE

The Conference adopts the following ORDER AND FORM OF BUSINESS, subject to such modifications as may hereafter be found necessary or convenient.

(a) Previously to each Conference, the Stationing Committee shall meet in London in connexion with the Annual Meeting of the Home Mission Committee, and shall prepare and issue the First Draft of the Stations of Ministers. The Committee shall meet again in the Conference town on the Tuesday morning preceding the Representative Session and on the Saturday during the Pastoral Session.

(b) The Nomination Committee shall meet on the Wednesday afternoon, the day on which the Conference assembles.

I. Representative Session

The Representative Session commences on the Wednesday of the first week of the Conference, at 6 o'clock p.m.

1. The formal constitution of the Legal Conference : (a) Calling the Roll ; (b) Declaration of vacancies caused by death, or by absence for two successive years without a dispensation, and filling up of the same on the ground of *seniority* ; (c) Election of President on the nomination of the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference ; (d) Election of Secretary on the nomination of the Pastoral Session of the preceding Conference ; (e) Granting dispensations to absentees.

N.B.—The above items of business are reserved to the Legal Conference.

2. The filling up of vacancies caused by the death or absence of Lay Representatives elected by the Conference.

3. Roll of Attendance.

4. Appointment of Hours of Sessions.

5. Appointment of Time and Place for holding the next Conference.

6. Reception of Memorials, and Suggestions of District Synods ; and appointment of a Committee to report thereon.

N.B.—Memorials and Suggestions from Circuits shall be printed and circulated throughout the Conference.

7. Notices of Motion. Such Notices may be given subsequently, if occasion arise.

N.B.—No Motion on any subject not before the Conference in the ordinary course of its business can be considered until after twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given. No Motion other than those relating to the several Departments whose business comes in due course before the Conference can be discussed earlier than Monday, except by a two-thirds vote of the Conference.

8. Appointment of the Nomination Committee with one Ministerial and one Lay Secretary. This Committee will consider nominations of members presented by the Committees of Departments. (*Minutes*, p. 367.)

9. Appointment of a Committee to report the number of Laymen from each District who may attend the next Conference when composed of Ministers and Laymen.

10. Appointment of any other Committee according to Standing Orders.

N.B.—The Secretary of the Conference shall print a preliminary list of the names suggested for appointment on these Committees and circulate them on the Wednesday evening; the vote on such Committee to be taken near the close of the Thursday morning Session.

11. The various announcements in connexion with the Conference.

N.B.—No other business can be transacted on the Wednesday evening.

12. Induction of and Address by the President.

A portion of Thursday morning shall be devoted to the Induction of the President and the President's Address.

The Conversation on the various aspects of the work of God at home and abroad shall take place on Friday morning immediately after the Sacramental Service.

The President may make some previous arrangement as to the person or persons who shall introduce the conversation.

In addition to the opening devotional exercises of the Conference the President, when in his judgement it is desirable, shall arrange for Devotional intervals during the Sessions.

13. The Home Mission Fund.

(a) General Fund.

(b) Army and Navy Board.

(c) Seamen's Mission.

(d) Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Bolton, Sheffield, Nottingham (Albert Hall), Hull, Bradford, Leysian, Westminster, and Merthyr Central Missions.

(e) Any other Mission managed by a Committee appointed by the Conference.

(f) Special Commissions.

(g) Appointment of Home Mission Deputations.

14. Proposals for the division or alteration of Circuits or Districts.

15. Proposals to increase or decrease the number of Ministers.

16. The Connexional Fund.

17. Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Friday morning).

18. Election of sixteen Lay Representatives in place of those who retire in rotation, and who are not eligible for immediate re-election. See *Minutes*, 1880, pp. 334, 335.

19. Open Session for the reception of Representatives from other Conferences ; reading of Addresses ; and appointment of Committees to draft Replies. (Friday afternoon.)

20. The Twentieth Century Fund.

21. Foreign Missions :

(a) General Business.

(b) Appointment of District Deputations.

22. Education :

(a) General Committee.

(b) Elementary Schools.

(c) Secondary Education.

23. Connexional Sunday-school Department.

24. The Theological Institution.

25. Chapel Affairs :

(a) General Fund.

(b) Extension of Methodism in Great Britain.

(c) South Wales District Chapel Fund.

(d) First North Wales District Chapel Fund.

(e) Second North Wales District Chapel Fund.

(f) Relief and Extension Fund for Scotland.

26. The London Mission and Extension Fund.

27. Nominations of Ministers for Designation to those Departmental Offices where the nomination is by a mixed Committee.

One, two, or three names shall be presented to the Pastoral Session in accordance with Regulations. See *Minutes*, 1913, p. 389.

28. Nominations for Appointment, in cases of emergency, of Ministers to Departmental Offices where the nomination is by a mixed Committee.

One, two, or three names shall be presented to the Pastoral Session in accordance with Regulations. See *Minutes*, 1913, p. 389.

N.B.—In case of an emergency arising after the close of the Representative Session, the Pastoral Session shall have the right to appoint without a previous nomination.

29. Committee of Privileges and Exigency.

30. Appointment of Deputations to affiliated and other Conferences ; under ordinary circumstances, on the nomination of a Special Committee.

31. Fund for the Maintenance and Education of Ministers' Children :

(a) Maintenance.

(b) Education :

Kingswood ; Trinity Hall.

32. Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows' Auxiliary Fund.

33. National Children's Home and Orphanage.

34. Temperance.

35. Methodist Settlement in London.

36. Social Purity.

37. The Allan Library,

38. The Œcumenical Conference.

39. Concerted Action.

40. Local Preachers.

41. Class Leaders.

42. Wesley Guild.

43. Wesley Deaconess Institute.

44. Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund.

45. Religious Observance of the Lord's Day.

46. Methodist Brotherhood.

47. Reports of other Committees appointed by the previous Conference.

48. Report of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions.

49. Resolutions provisionally adopted by the last Conference in its Representative Session.

50. Notices of Motion on subjects not already disposed of.

51. Miscellaneous Business.

READING OF THE RECORD

The Conference of 1911 directed as follows :

(a) The Daily Record of the Representative Session shall be printed day by day and circulated among the members of the Conference. When the Conference assembles for the Afternoon Session of each day, the Record Secretary shall move that the Record as printed be taken as read and approved by the Conference.

(b) All Votes of Thanks in the Conference shall be abolished. All courtesies and hospitalities shown to the Conference by private individuals or public authorities shall be publicly acknowledged on behalf of the Conference by the President and also by the Letter Writers.

(c) Deputations to the Conference shall be received on such days as the Conference itself shall direct. It is recommended that such deputations shall be received at 11 o'clock during the Morning Session, and that the time occupied shall not exceed forty minutes.

II. Pastoral Session

1. The Pastoral Session of the Conference shall meet on the Wednesday morning immediately following the close of the Representative Session, and the first Order of the Day shall be the President's Address.

2. Conversation and Prayer respecting the various aspects of the Work of God at Home and Abroad shall take place on the Thursday morning. The President may make some previous arrangement as to the person, or persons, who shall introduce this conversation.

3. Declarations of vacancies in the Legal Conference caused by superannuation, and filling up of the same after *nomination*.

4. Nomination of the President and Secretary of the next Conference.

5. Appointment of Assistant Secretaries.

6. Appointment of hours of Conference Sessions.

7. Reception of Memorials and Suggestions from District Synods, and appointment of a Committee to report thereon.

8. Appointment of Committees :

(a) On Appeals, and other Cases.

(b) To report on Ministers for whom no appointment is made by the Stationing Committee.

(c) To report on Chapel cases which affect discipline.

(d) To prepare the Pastoral Address for the following Conference.

N.B.—At each Conference a Committee shall be appointed to prepare the Pastoral Address for the following Conference. The President shall arrange with some minister to write the Address as heretofore.

(e) To report upon the number of Ministers from each District who may attend the Conference when Ministers and Laymen are present ; and the number of Ministers from each District who may attend the Conference when Ministers only are present.

(f) To report upon the cases of Ministers who have had Supplies during the year; the list to be furnished by the Ex-President; to report also on Supernumeraries returning to full work.

9. Presentation of documents legally required to be forthcoming at the Conference.

10. Notices of Motion.—These should be presented not later than the *second* day of the Session; but such Notices may be given subsequently, if occasion arise.

N.B.—No Motion on any subject not before the Conference in the ordinary course of its business can be considered until after twenty-four hours' notice thereof has been given. Motions other than those which relate to the business which comes in due course before the Conference cannot be discussed earlier than Tuesday, except by a two-thirds vote of the Conference.

11. Questions affecting the character of Ministers and Preachers on Trial.

12. Supernumeraries:

(a) Ministers becoming Supernumeraries.

(b) Junior Ministers becoming Supernumeraries; a Committee on such cases to be appointed.

(c) Supernumeraries returning to the Full Work.

13. Candidates for the Ministry now recognized:

(a) Candidates on the President's List of Reserve.

(b) Students in the Theological Institution.

(c) Candidates now received.

(d) Appointment of a Candidates' Allocation Committee.

14. Report upon the Examination of Preachers on Trial and Examination Arrangements; also Report of Committee on the Oversight of Probationers.

15. Preachers to be admitted into Full Connexion.

16. Examination of Candidates for Ordination, and their admission into Full Connexion. (Friday.)

17. Probationers:

(a) Remaining on Trial.

(b) Now received on Trial.

18. Report of the Book Committee, and Supervision of Connexional Literature.

19. Such Reports of Committees as are necessary for the business of the Stationing Committee, including the Report of

the Committee on 'Appeals, and other Cases'; and on 'Designations.'

20. (a) Designation of Ministers to Departmental Offices.

(b) Appointment of Ministers to Departmental Offices.

21. The next sitting of the Stationing Committee shall take place on the Saturday of the Pastoral Session at 10 o'clock a.m.

22. Consideration of the Stations of Ministers and Probationers. (Monday morning.)

23. Ordination Service. (Tuesday morning.)

24. Deaths of Ministers and Probationers:

(a) In Great Britain.

(b) In our Foreign Missions, and under other Conferences.

(c) In Ireland.

N.B.—It will be convenient to hold the Memorial Service on the Tuesday evening.

25. Adoption of the Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Societies.

26. Reports of the Candidates' Allocation Committee, and of other Committees.

27. Election of Chairmen of Districts, and Appointment of Financial Secretaries.

28. Report of the Committee on Memorials and Suggestions.

29. Revision and Confirmation of Stations. (Wednesday.)

30. Pastoral Reports (Schools).

31. Arrangements for the Examination of Candidates for the Ministry.

32. Official Appointments, including the Irish Delegation.

33. Resolutions provisionally adopted by the last Conference.

34. Appointment of the Discipline Committees for the several branches of the Theological Institution, and for the Missionary Society.

35. Appointment of Convener of Scrutineers for the next Conference.

36. Reports of Special Committees appointed by the preceding Conference.

37. Report of the Committee on the number of Ministers from each District who may attend the next Conference.

38. Consideration of remaining Notices of Motion.

N.B.—Notices of Motion may have been previously dealt with in connexion with the business to which they had reference

39. Presentation and recording of the acts of our Delegate in Ireland.

40. Election by ballot of twelve Senior Ministers whose names are to be submitted to the Legal Conference of the next year as those nominated to fill vacancies.

41. Miscellaneous Business.

N.B.—The Daily Record shall be printed as in the Representative Session, except where cases of character and discipline are concerned.

READING AND CONFIRMATION OF THE CONFERENCE JOURNAL

N.B.—All Votes of Thanks in the Conference shall be abolished. All courtesies and hospitalities shown to the Conference by private individuals or public authorities shall be publicly acknowledged on behalf of the Conference by the President and also by the Letter Writers.

III

The Plan of Pacification

To the Members of the Methodist Society

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN,

We beg leave to state to you what has been done in our present Conference, in order to establish a general and lasting peace and union throughout our Connexion.

When we assembled together, our hearts were most deeply touched with the awful situation of our affairs. We trembled at the thought of a division and its dreadful consequences, and, therefore, determined to set apart the first day of the Conference as a day of solemn and real fasting and prayer. God was, indeed, in the midst of us; and we all felt a confidence that a solid foundation would be laid for lasting peace and unity.

When we met in Conference on the second day, we saw the necessity of appointing a Committee to prepare a plan of general pacification; and, that the Committee might be the men of our own choice, in the fullest sense of the words, we resolved that they should be chosen by ballot. Every Preacher, therefore, in Full Connexion, gave in nine papers with a name upon each (nine being the pre-determined number of the Committee). The ballots were received, and Messrs. Mather and Pawson were desired to retire and count the votes. When they returned, they gave in the following names as the first upon the list, viz.: Joseph Bradford (who was President), John Pawson, Alexander Mather, Thomas Coke, William Thompson, Samuel Bradburn, Joseph Benson, Henry Moore, and Adam Clarke. We were astonished at the choice, and clearly saw it was of God. It evidenced beyond a doubt the impartiality of the body of Preachers, for there must have existed a majority on one side or the other in respect to the disputed points; and yet they voted for a *mixed* Committee. The Committee accordingly met six evenings successively, and

sat each evening, after all the fatigues of the Conference, for about three hours and a half. Their plan was at last completed and laid before the Conference, who, with the alteration of a single article, passed them unanimously. After this, two or three articles more were agreed upon, under the title of *Addenda*, in order to give the completest satisfaction and to remove every obstacle to a lasting peace.

ARTICLES OF AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL PACIFICATION

I. Concerning the Lord's Supper, Baptism, &c.

1. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall not be administered in any Chapel, except the majority of the Trustees of that Chapel, on the one hand, and the majority of the Stewards and Leaders belonging to that Chapel (as the best qualified to give the sense of the people), on the other hand, allow of it. Nevertheless, in all cases, the consent of the Conference shall be obtained, before the Lord's Supper be administered.

2. Wherever there is a Society, but no Chapel, if the majority of the Stewards and Leaders of that Society testify that it is the wish of the people that the Lord's Supper should be administered to them, their desire shall be gratified ; provided that the consent of the Conference be previously obtained.

3. Provided, nevertheless, that in Mount Pleasant Chapel in Liverpool, and in all other Chapels where the Lord's Supper has been already peaceably administered, the administration of it shall be continued in future.

4. The administration of Baptism, the Burial of the Dead, and Service in Church hours, shall be determined according to the Regulations above mentioned.

5. Wherever the Lord's Supper shall be administered according to the before-mentioned Regulations, it shall always be continued, except the Conference order the contrary.

6. The Lord's Supper shall be administered by those *only* who are authorized by the Conference ; and at such times, and in such manner *only*, as the Conference shall appoint.

7. The administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, according to the above Regulations, is intended only for the Members of our own Society.

8. We agree that the Lord's Supper be administered among us on Sunday evenings only ; except where the majority of the Stewards and Leaders desire it in Church hours, or where it has already been administered in those hours. Nevertheless, it shall never be administered on those Sundays on which it is administered in the parochial Church.

9. The Lord's Supper shall be always administered in England, according to the Form of the Established Church ; but the person who administers shall have full liberty to give out hymns, and to use exhortation and extemporary prayer.

10. Wherever Divine Service is performed in England on the Lord's Day in Church hours, the officiating Preacher shall read either the Service of the Established Church, our venerable Father's Abridgement, or, at least, the Lessons appointed by the Calendar. But we recommend either the full Service or the Abridgement.

II. Concerning Discipline

1. The appointment of the Preachers shall remain solely with the Conference ; and no Trustee, or number of Trustees, shall expel or exclude from their Chapel or Chapels, any Preachers so appointed.

2. Nevertheless, if the majority of the Trustees, or the majority of the Stewards and Leaders of any Society, believe that any Preacher appointed for their Circuit is immoral, erroneous in doctrines, deficient in abilities, or that he has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, they shall have authority to summon the Preachers of the District, and all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the Circuit, to meet in their Chapel, on a day and hour appointed (sufficient time being given). The Chairman of the District shall be the President of the assembly ; and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, the Chairman possessing also the casting voice. And if the majority of the Meeting judge that the accused Preacher is immoral, erroneous in doctrines, deficient in abilities, or has broken any of the Rules above mentioned, he shall be considered as removed from that Circuit. And the District Committee shall, as soon as possible, appoint another Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the Preacher so removed ; and shall determine among themselves how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of till

the Conference, and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties, till the Conference, if they judge proper. The District Committee shall also supply, as well as possible, the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed. And the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial. And if the District Committee do not appoint a Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the removed Preacher, within a month after the afore-said removal, or do not fill up the place of the removed Preacher till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned, shall appoint a Preacher for the said Circuit, provided he be a member of the Methodist Connexion, till the ensuing Conference.

3. If any Preacher refuse to submit to the above mode of trial in any of the cases mentioned above, he shall be considered as suspended till the Conference. And if any Trustees expel from any Chapel a Preacher by their own *separate* authority, the Preachers appointed for that Circuit shall not preach in that Chapel till the ensuing Conference, or till a trial take place according to the mode mentioned above.

4. If any Trustees expel or exclude a Preacher, by their own *separate* authority, from any Chapel in any Circuit, the Chairman of the District shall summon the members of the District Committee, the Trustees of that Circuit who have not offended, and the Stewards and Leaders of the Circuit. And the members of such assembly shall examine into the evidence on both sides; and if the majority of them determine that the state of the Society in which the exclusion took place requires that a new Chapel should be built previous to the meeting of the Conference, every proper step shall be immediately taken for erecting such Chapel. And no step shall, on any account, be taken to erect a Chapel for *such purpose* before the meeting of the next Conference, till such a Meeting be summoned, and such determination be made.

5. No Preacher shall be suspended or removed from the Circuit by any District Committee, except he have the privilege of the trial before mentioned.

6. The hundred Preachers mentioned in the enrolled Deed, and their successors, are the only *legal* persons who constitute the Conference; and we think the Junior Brethren have no reason

to object to this proposition, as they are regularly elected according to seniority.

7. Inasmuch as, in drawing up the preceding Regulations, we have laboured to restore and preserve the peace and unity of the Society, and, in order thereto, have endeavoured to keep the Preachers out of all disputes on the subjects therein specified; Be it understood that any Preacher who shall disturb the peace of the Society by speaking for or against the introduction of the Lord's Supper in our Societies, or concerning the old or new plan, so called, shall be subject to the trial and penalties before mentioned.

8. And, in order that the utmost impartiality may be manifest in these Regulations for the peace of the whole Body, we also resolve that, if any Local Preacher, Trustee, Steward, or Leader shall disturb the peace of the Society by speaking for or against the introduction of the Lord's Supper, or concerning the old or new plan, so called, the Assistant of the Circuit, or the majority of the Trustees, Stewards and Leaders of the Society so disturbed, shall have authority to summon a Meeting of the Travelling Preachers of the Circuit, and the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of that Society. Evidence shall be examined on both sides, and if the charge be proved, the Assistant Preacher shall expel from the Society the person so offending.

Addenda

1. The Conference by no means wishes to divide any Society by the introduction of the Lord's Supper, and, therefore, expects that the majority of the Stewards and Leaders, who desire the Lord's Supper among themselves, testify in writing to the Conference, that they are persuaded that no separation will be made thereby.

2. The Sacrament shall not be administered to a Society in any private house within two miles of any Methodist Chapel in which it is regularly administered.

3. We all agree that the pulpit shall not be a vehicle of abuse.

4. It has been our general custom never to appoint or remove a Leader or Steward without first consulting the Leaders and Stewards of the Society; and we are resolved to walk by the same Rule.

5. To prevent as much as possible the progress of *strife* and

debate, and consequent divisions in our Connexion, no pamphlet, or printed letter, shall be circulated among us without the author's name, *and the postage or carriage paid*.

6. Nothing contained in these Rules shall be construed to violate the rights of the Trustees, as expressed in their respective Deeds.

Thus, Beloved Brethren, have we done our utmost to satisfy every party, and to unite the whole. You, by your Trustees on the one hand, and your proper representatives, the Leaders and Stewards, on the other, are to determine concerning the introduction of the Sacrament, or the Service in Church hours, among yourselves. We have gone abundantly further. We have in some degree deposited our characters and usefulness in your hands, or the hands of your representatives, by making them judges of our morals, doctrines, and gifts. We apprehend that we could have made no further sacrifice without sapping the foundations of Methodism, and, particularly, destroying the Itinerant plan. O, Brethren, be as zealous for peace and unity in your respective Societies as your Preachers have been in this blessed Conference. Let the majorities and minorities on both sides exercise the utmost forbearance towards each other; let them mutually concede one to the other as far as possible; and, by thus bearing each other's burdens, fulfil the law of Christ. Let all resentment be buried in eternal oblivion, and let contention and strife be for ever banished from the borders of our Israel.

Surely our present complete and happy union, so contrary to the fears of many, is a signal of good times. God will, we believe, pour out His Spirit upon us more largely than ever; and, by the exercise of His most gracious prerogative, bring abundance of good out of all our past evils.

To His grace and holy keeping we commend you. May nothing ever separate you and us from the love of God, or from each other; but may you be our crown of rejoicing in the great day of the Lord!

Signed, in behalf of the Conference,

JOSEPH BRADFORD, *President*.

THOMAS COKE, *Secretary*.

Manchester, August 6, 1795.

(1795, vol. i., pp. 339-43.)

IV

Regulations Made at Leeds

To the Methodist Societies

LEEDS, Aug. 7, 1797.

DEAR BRETHREN,

We think it our duty to inform you, by the earliest opportunity, of the measures we have taken in order to satisfy those of our Brethren who have been made more or less uneasy by sundry publications circulated through the Societies; and we trust that, on a serious consideration of the Regulations we have agreed to at this Conference, you will see that the sacrifices in respect of authority which we have made on the part of the whole body of Travelling Preachers, evidence our willingness to meet our Brethren in everything which is consistent with the existence of the Methodist Discipline, and our readiness to be their servants for Jesu's sake.

I. In respect to finances or money matters :—

1. We have determined to publish annually a very minute account of the disbursements or application of the Yearly Collection. And,

2. A full account of the affairs of Kingswood School.

3. That all bills for the support of Travelling Preachers and their families, in respect to deficiencies, house-rent, fire, candles, sickness, travelling expenses, and all other matters of a temporal kind for their support, for which the Circuits cannot provide, shall first meet with the approbation of the Quarterly Meeting, and be signed by the General Steward of the Circuit, before they can be brought to the District Committee.

II. In respect to all other temporal matters :—

1. It has been determined that no Circuits shall be divided

till such division has been approved of by their respective Quarterly Meetings and signed by the General Stewards.

2. That no other temporal matter shall be transacted by the District Committees till the approbation of the respective Quarterly Meetings be first given, signed by the Circuit Stewards.

III. In respect to the receiving and excluding private Members of Society :—

1. The Leaders' Meeting shall have a right to declare any person on Trial improper to be received into the Society ; and, after such declaration, the Superintendent shall not admit such person into the Society.

2. No person shall be expelled from the Society for immorality till such immorality be proved at a Leaders' Meeting.

IV. In respect to the appointment and removal of Leaders, Stewards, and Local Preachers, and concerning Meetings :—

1. No person shall be appointed a Leader or Steward, or be removed from his office, but in conjunction with the Leaders' Meeting ; the nomination to be in the Superintendent, and the approbation or disapprobation in the Leaders' Meeting.

2. The former Rule concerning Local Preachers is confirmed, viz. That no person shall receive a Plan as a Local Preacher without the approbation of a Local Preachers' Meeting.

3. In compliance with a request made by the Committee of persons from various parts, namely,—‘ That the Conference be requested to reconsider and revise those Rules which relate to the calling of Meetings and appointing Local Preachers, made last year,’ we say : ‘ No Local Preacher shall be permitted to preach in any other Circuit than his own without producing a recommendation from the Superintendent of the Circuit in which he lives ; or suffer any invitation to be admitted as a plea but from men in office, who act in conjunction with the Superintendent of that Circuit which he visits.’ The design of this Rule is to prevent any, under the character of Local Preachers, from burdening the people either by collecting money, or by living upon them ; and to prevent improper persons, who bear no part of the expense, from inviting Local Preachers thus to visit them.

But it never was intended to reflect the least disrespect on any of our worthy Brethren, the Local Preachers, whom, considered as a body, we greatly respect. And it should not be lost sight of that several of the most respectable Local Preachers in the kingdom, who were in the Committee which met the Committee of Preachers appointed by the Conference, declared their high approbation of the Rule, and desired that it might be strengthened as much as possible, as none could justly complain of it.

4. As the Committee above-mentioned requested also that the Minutes of the last Conference concerning the calling of Meetings to consider the affairs of the Society or Connexion, be explained ; and as we are exceedingly desirous of preserving the peace and union of the whole Body, we have agreed upon the following explanation, viz.—

(1.) As the Leaders' Meeting is the proper Meeting for the Society, and the Quarterly Meeting for the Circuit, we think that other formal Meetings, in general, would be contrary to the Methodist economy and very prejudicial in their consequences. But,

(2.) In order to be as tender as possible, consistently with what we believe to be essential to the welfare of our Societies, we allow that other formal Meetings may be held if they first receive the approbation of the Superintendent and the Leaders' or Quarterly Meeting ; provided also, that the Superintendent, if he please, be present at every such Meeting.

V. We have selected all our ancient Rules, which were made before the death of our late venerable Father in the Gospel, the Rev. Mr. Wesley, which are essential Rules, or prudential at this present time ; and have solemnly signed them, declaring our approbation of them, and determination to comply with them ; one single Preacher excepted,¹ who, in consequence, withdrew from us.

VI. We have determined that all the Rules which relate to the Societies, Leaders, Stewards, Local Preachers, Trustees, and Quarterly Meetings shall be published, with the Rules of the Society, for the benefit and convenience of all the Members.

VII. In respect to all new Rules which shall be made by the Conference :—

¹ Before the Conference concluded two other Preachers withdrew

It is determined that if, at any time, the Conference see it necessary to make any new Rule for the Societies at large, and such Rule should be objected to at the first Quarterly Meeting in any given Circuit ; and if the major part of that Meeting, in conjunction with the Preachers, be of opinion that the enforcing of such Rule in that Circuit will be injurious to the prosperity of that Circuit ; it shall not be enforced in opposition to the judgment of such Quarterly Meeting before the second Conference. But, if the Rule be confirmed by the second Conference, it shall be binding to the whole Connexion. Nevertheless, the Quarterly Meetings, rejecting a new Rule, shall not, by publications, public meetings, or otherwise, make that Rule a cause of contention ; but shall strive, by every means, to preserve the peace of the Connexion.

Thus, Brethren, we have given up the greatest part of our executive government into your hands, as represented in your different public Meetings.

1. We have delivered the whole of our Yearly Collection to your management. For we know, by experience, that the bills of the Quarterly Meetings, if only *mere* justice be done to the Preachers and their families, will amount to much more than the Yearly Collection: The Conference will, in this business, have no authority whatsoever. They will have nothing but the trouble of receiving the money, and paying the bills which shall have been sent to them from the Quarterly Meetings, and been approved of by the District Committees. And when the accounts are published by the Conference, every Quarterly Meeting may compare its own accounts with those of the Conference, and thereby have as complete a check as the nature of things can possibly admit of.

The Conference has reserved to itself the management of its own Book Concerns. This is most reasonable, as the institution was established for the carrying on of the work of God, under the direction of Mr. Wesley and the Conference ; was continued, by the deed or codicil of Mr. Wesley's Will, for the use of the Conference ; as the whole burden of the management of the business lies upon the Conference, and the servants they employ, and on the Superintendents of Circuits ; and also, as it is the only fund which can supply any deficiencies of the Yearly Collection, as the accounts

published in our Minutes for several years past clearly evidence ; the Yearly Collection having not been nearly sufficient for the wants of the Preachers and their families, and for the carrying on of the work of God in general.

2. The whole management of our temporal concerns may now be truly said to be invested in the Quarterly Meetings, the District Meetings having nothing left them but a negative.

3. Our Societies have full check on the Superintendent, by the means of their Leaders' Meeting, in regard to the introduction of persons into Society ; whilst the Superintendent has sufficient scope allowed him for the increase of the Societies, not only according to the common course of things, but at the times of remarkable outpourings of the Spirit of God.

4. The Members of our Societies are delivered from every apprehension of clandestine expulsions ; as *that* Superintendent would be bold indeed who would act with partiality or injustice in the presence of the whole Meeting of Leaders. Such a Superintendent, we trust, we have not among us ; and if such there ever should be, we should be ready to do all possible justice to our injured Brethren.

5. There is now no Society-Officer among us who can be received without the consent of that Meeting to which he particularly belongs ; nor can any Officer be appointed, except upon the same plan.

6. In order to prevent any degree of precipitation in making of new Rules, and to obtain information of the sentiments of our people on every such Rule, we have agreed to the article mentioned under the VIIth head, by which no Regulations will be finally confirmed till after a year's consideration, and the knowledge of the sentiments of the Connexion at large, through the medium of all their public officers.

In short, brethren, out of our great love for peace and union, and our great desire to satisfy your minds, we have given up to you by far the greatest part of the Superintendent's authority ; and, if we consider that the Quarterly Meetings are the sources from whence all temporal regulations, during the intervals of the Conferences, must now originally spring ; and also, that the

Committee, formed according to the Plan of Pacification can, in every instance in which the Trustees, Leaders, and Stewards choose to interfere respecting the gifts, doctrines, or moral character of Preachers, supersede, in a great measure, the regular District Committees; we may, taking all these things into our view, truly say that such have been the sacrifices we have made that our District Committees themselves have hardly any authority remaining, but a bare negative in general, and the appointment of a Representative to assist in drawing up the rough draft of the Stations of the Preachers. And besides all this, we have given the Quarterly Meetings opportunities of considering every new Law, of suspending the execution of it for a year in their respective Circuits, and of sending their sentiments on it to the Conference, before it be finally confirmed.

We have represented these measures, which we have taken for your satisfaction, in as concise a manner as we well could, giving you the sense of the whole, not only for brevity's sake, but for expedition, that you may be informed of the general heads of our proceedings as soon as possible. In the Regulations which will be published with the Rules of the Society, as mentioned above, you will have the whole at large.

We are, your affectionate Brethren,

Signed, in behalf and by order of the Conference,

THOMAS COKE, *President.*

SAMUEL BRADBURN, *Secretary.*

SUNDRY MISCELLANEOUS REGULATIONS

I. With Respect to Districts

1. In order to render our Districts more effective, the President of the Conference shall have power, when applied to, to supply a Circuit with Preachers, if any should die or desist from travelling; and to sanction any change of Preachers which it may be necessary to make in the intervals of the Conference; and to assist at any District Meeting if applied to for that purpose by the Chairman of the District, or by a majority of the Superintendents in such District. And he shall have a right, if written to by any who are concerned, to visit any Circuit, and to inquire

into their affairs with respect to METHODISM, and, in union with the District Committee, redress any grievance.

2. The Chairman of each District, in conjunction with his Brethren of the Committee, shall be responsible to the Conference for the execution of the laws, as far as his District is concerned.

3. That no Chairman may have cause to complain of the want of power, in cases which (according to his judgement) cannot be settled in the ordinary District Meeting, he shall have authority to summon three of the nearest Superintendents to be incorporated with the District Committee, who shall have equal authority to vote and settle everything till the Conference.

4. The Conference recommends it to the Superintendents of the Circuits to invite, on all important occasions, the Chairman of their respective District to be present at their Quarterly Meetings.

5. The Chairman of every District shall be chosen by the ballot of the Conference, after the names of all the Preachers in the District shall have been read to them by the Secretary.

II. As to Delegates

The Conference, having maturely considered the subject, are thoroughly persuaded, with many of our Societies, whose letters have been read in full Conference, that they cannot admit any but regular Travelling Preachers into their Body, either in the Conference or District Meetings, and preserve the system of Methodism entire, particularly the Itinerant plan, which they are determined to support. But, let it be well observed that, in explaining their Minutes, it was fully and explicitly understood that, if there be any accusation against a Preacher, or any difficult affair to settle, not only the Circuit or Town Steward, but any Leader, or even Member of the Society, shall be admitted, as evidence, to the District Meeting; provided the matter has been first heard at a Quarterly Meeting.

III. With Regard to Preachers

1. Before any Superintendent propose a Preacher to the Conference as proper to be admitted on Trial, such Preacher must not only be approved of at the March Quarterly Meeting, but must have read and signed the General Minutes, as fully approving of

them. Nor must any one suppose, or pretend to think, that the conversations which have been on any of these Minutes were intended so to qualify them as in the least to affect the spirit and the design of them.

2. No Local Preacher shall keep Lovefeasts without the consent of the Superintendent, nor in any wise interfere with his business. Let every one keep his own place, and attend to the duties of his own station.

Regulations IV., V., VI., and VII. relate to the Book Concerns, the West Indies, the Case of Bristol, and Public Collections (1797, vol. i., pp. 390-97).

*See also the original in the original
manuscript in the original (1912)*

V

RESOLUTIONS ON PASTORAL WORK

Ourselves and our Families

We, on this solemn occasion, devote ourselves afresh to God ; and resolve, in humble dependence on His grace, to be more than ever attentive to personal religion, and to the Christian instruction and government of our families. And we further resolve to cultivate more fully the spirit of Christian Pastors, so that all our intercourse with our people may be to edification ; and as 'overseers of the flock,' to give ourselves to the work of 'warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.' And in order to this, let us frequently read and carefully study Mr. Wesley's 'Twelve Rules of a Helper,' and other parts of the *Large Minutes* which relate to the duties of a Preacher and Pastor.

Let us daily consecrate ourselves fully and entirely to our proper work as the servants of Christ and of His Church, giving ourselves 'wholly' to it, both in public and private. Let us strictly guard against all occupations of our time and thoughts which have no direct relation to our great calling, and which would injuriously divert our attention from the momentous task of 'saving them that hear us,' and 'taking care of the Church of God.'

Let us afresh, solemnly and heartily recognize the original purpose of Methodism, 'to spread Scriptural holiness through the land,' and ever regard this as the first and great calling of the Methodist people, and especially of the Preachers. And let us determine, in the Name of God, that this idea shall rule our whole life, and that every pursuit and design shall be subordinated to this our high and special calling (1820, vol. v., p. 147 ; 1835, vol. vii., p. 551 ; 1848, vol. xi., p. 108).

The Study

Let us humbly and earnestly seek a more complete preparation for the great work of the ministry, and especially that richer 'unction of the Holy One' which is vouchsafed only to men who live near to God. This anointing for our office would yield what most of all we ourselves need and desire: a large increase of ardent piety and of vigorous faith; holy importunity in prayer, and irresistible persuasiveness in preaching.

Let us 'covet earnestly the best gifts,' to qualify us for an effective and useful ministry, and let us seek them in fervent prayer to Him who is the Father of lights and the Fountain of wisdom. Let us meanwhile 'stir up the gift of God which is in us,' and improve our talents by close study and diligent cultivation; and especially let every one of us 'study to show' himself 'approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' Let us take care that, whatever other qualifications we may acquire and use, our ministry shall at least be always marked by sound, evangelical doctrine, by plainness of speech, and by a spirit of tender affection and burning zeal (1820, vol. v., p. 147; 1848, vol. xi., p. 108).

The Pulpit

Let us preach constantly the leading and vital doctrines of the Gospel: repentance toward God; a present, free, and full salvation from sin;—a salvation flowing from the grace of God alone, 'through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,' and apprehended by the simple exercise of faith;—a salvation which begins with the forgiveness of sins (this forgiveness being certified to the penitent believer by the Holy Spirit) and (by means of this witness, but by the power of that Divine Spirit who bears the witness) a change of heart;—a salvation which is itself the only entrance to a course of practical holiness.

And let us preach these cardinal doctrines in our primitive method,—evangelically and experimentally, with apostolical earnestness and zeal, and with great simplicity. Let us 'labour in the word and doctrine'; applying our discourses closely and lovingly to the various classes of our hearers, and 'by manifestation of the truth, commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.'

Remembering that the prominence which is properly given in the Methodist pulpit to the doctrine of present salvation is ever liable to Antinomian abuses, let us diligently and evangelically preach the precepts as well as the privileges of the Gospel, expounding them carefully and applying them faithfully.

Let us build up our people in knowledge and holiness ; urging them to fidelity in family duties, and especially in the godly training up of their children ; and, in general, to 'follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.'

In every place, let us speak plainly and pointedly on the duty and advantage of Christian communion, and exhort all who are seeking salvation to avail themselves, without delay, of the help of our more private means of grace.

In particular, let us urge upon all our people a conscientious and frequent observance of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper ; expounding its nature ; instructing the young, and reasoning with the timid and the doubting ; and setting forth the duty and blessedness of 'showing the Lord's death till He come' (1820, vol. v., pp. 147, 148, 150 ; 1821, vol. v., p. 250 ; 1835, vol. vii., p. 552).

Society Meetings

Being fully persuaded that the regular and frequent meeting of our Societies is of vital importance to the prosperity and perpetuation of the Work of God amongst our people, let us meet the principal Societies regularly on the Lord's Day, and frequently on the week evenings in country places. And let us make such Meetings interesting and profitable to our Members by information as to the state of the Work of God in the Circuit generally ; by reference to the special circumstances of the Society then present ; and by explaining our own Rules, and 'putting the Brethren in remembrance' of their specific duties, both personal and domestic.

And from time to time let us exhort our Members, in the event of their removing into other Circuits, to secure a Note of Removal, and to seek immediate connexion with the Society in the place whither they go to reside.

And inasmuch as religion in our Societies depends largely upon the cultivation amongst us of family religion, let us earnestly

press upon our people the regular and devout observance of family worship, accompanied by the reading of Holy Scripture. And in order to a due discharge of this most important domestic duty, a suitable and sufficient portion of time should be conscientiously set apart in the morning and evening of each day, when the attendance of all the members of the household, servants included, should be arranged for and required.

Let us also at such Meetings earnestly exhort our Societies to make the best and most religious use of the rest and leisure of the Lord's Day. Let us urge upon our Members to sanctify the Sabbath Day, not only personally, but in their families, by 'commanding their children and their households to keep the way of the Lord'; and especially by a regular attendance upon the public worship of Almighty God, both morning and evening, and by arranging that, in their families, as few persons as possible are kept at home.

And let us show to our people the evil of wasting, in visits or in receiving company, those hours of the holy Sabbath which are not spent in public worship; and that such a practice tends to the neglect of private prayer, of the study of the Scriptures, and of the religious instruction of children,—and also to the spiritual injury of domestic servants, who are thereby needlessly kept at work on the day of rest, and deprived of the public means of grace.

And, lastly, let us guard our people against the danger of expending all their time and energy on local and subordinate enterprises and works of charity, to the neglect of the public preaching of the Gospel, the weekly meeting for prayer and intercession, and the Class Meeting. Let us show them that, by a wise economy of time, they may 'fulfil their course' of benevolent activities without robbing God of the public worship which He demands. And on this question let us, as occasion serves, remind our Members that, under the Divine blessing, the prosperity of the spiritual work of God depends upon the regular and conscientious use of His institutions, for it is through the means that we reach the end; and our own history shows that, in the success of the spiritual work of God, all other good undertakings among us had their origin, and have ever had their principal support. 'These things ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone' (1820, vol. v., pp. 149, 150, 151; 1821, vol. v., p. 250; 1836, vol. viii., p. 86; 1848, vol. xi., pp. 108, 109).

Leaders' Meetings

Let us regularly meet the Class Leaders, both in town and country; and at each Leaders' Meeting let us carefully examine the entries made in the Class Books relative to the attendance of the Members, in order that prompt and practical measures may be taken in cases which, on inquiry, shall be found to demand the exercise of discipline, 'the word of exhortation,' or kindly counsel and Christian sympathy.

From the beginning, Leaders' Meetings have been found essential to the pastoral care and spiritual prosperity of our Societies, and also to the orderly transaction of their financial concerns. Where Leaders' Meetings are frequently held, the work of the Leaders is done more perfectly. And by a minute examination of the Class Books, in the presence of the Leaders, we learn who are the sick, the careless, or the lukewarm; and then, in making pastoral visits, we are prepared to go, 'not only to those who want us, but to those who want us most.' Let us, therefore, see to it that Leaders' Meetings are held regularly, and as often as practicable, not only in the towns in which Ministers reside, but also in the principal country places.

As much depends, under the blessing of God, on the piety, zeal, and devotion, the Scriptural knowledge and Christian temper of our Leaders, and also on their intelligent and hearty approval of the doctrines and discipline of Methodism, let us, before nominating a new Leader, satisfy ourselves, by previous inquiry and personal examination, as to the character and qualifications of the person proposed.

Whenever a new Leader, nominated by us and accepted by the Leaders' Meeting, is first introduced to the Meeting, let us take that opportunity of stating the duties which belong to the office. And in particular, let us urge upon our Leaders the vital importance of seeing or communicating with each of their Members once a week.

Let us promote in every place the observance of those parts of our discipline which refer to Watch-nights, private and public Bands, and Quarterly Fast Days (1820, vol. v., pp. 149, 150; 1826, vol. vi., p. 168).

Quarterly Visitation of the Classes

Believing that, next to the public 'Ministry of the Word,' the Quarterly Visitation of the Classes is our most important official work, and remembering that to those of our Members who are not accessible for visitation at their own homes, the Visitation of the Classes is probably their only opportunity of direct intercourse with their Ministers, let us be careful each quarter to meet personally every Class, never sending the Tickets to the Leader.

And in making the Ticket Plan, let us so arrange the Visitation as not to crowd too many Classes together; but rather, by beginning the work early in the quarter, allow sufficient time in meeting each Class for a careful examination of the Members as to their Christian knowledge, experience, and practice, and for inquiry as to family religion; and also for suitable pastoral advice, encouragement, or admonition, for, 'consolation in Christ,' for 'comfort of love,' for 'fellowship of the Spirit.'

And, in connexion with the Visitation of the Classes, let us on the one hand inquire particularly into the experience and habits of those whom we find 'on Trial,' and receive into Society those only who, after due probation, may fairly be 'counted worthy.' And, on the other hand, let us not, upon slight grounds, return any persons as having 'ceased to meet'; but, before writing off such a one, let us inquire particularly into the case; and, wherever practicable, let us ourselves visit the person; and thus, 'by all means save some' of the many who 'forsake the assembling of themselves together' (1821, vol. v., p. 250; 1847, vol. x., p. 550).

Pastoral Visitation

We recognize the absolute obligation which is laid upon us—and which was solemnly acknowledged at the time we received Ordination—to secure, by mutual consultation and arrangement, such a general, stated, and efficient visitation of our people at their own dwellings as is involved in the Scriptural command to 'feed the Church of God,' and in the example of St. Paul, who 'taught' the people 'publicly, and from house to house'; and also in those other Scriptures which, in varied language, represent Christian Ministers as the under-shepherds of the flock of God—Jesus Christ Himself being the 'Chief Shepherd.'

We are persuaded that the unity and edification of our Societies, and the good feeling of our people generally, would be promoted by increased pastoral intercourse with them at their own homes. And, in the present day, the perilous exposure of our Members to the manifold fascinations of worldliness demands unremitting diligence on our part ; and especially that, in connexion with our pastoral visits, there should be, whenever practicable, the reading of a suitable portion of Holy Scripture, and prayer.

We do not forget that the cares and labours, both spiritual and economical, which devolve upon Ministers, and in particular upon Superintendents, are steadily increasing ; but at the same time the proportion of Ministers to Members is also increasing. And we are convinced that, by a wise economy of time, by energy and perseverance, and especially by system and method, much more pastoral visitation may be accomplished.

We, therefore, resolve to give ourselves afresh and more fully to this part of our work ; and we agree to devote regularly certain portions of our time for the purpose of visiting the Members of our Societies ' from house to house.' And we will strive to make our visits profitable to the people, by kindly inquiry into their Christian experience, by giving seasonable counsel and by exhorting them to a faithful and loving observance of all the duties of personal and family religion.

In particular, let us care for the aged, the infirm, the sick, and the poor ; let us keep watch over the lukewarm and the careless ; and let us pay special attention to backsliders. ' In the spirit of meekness ' and in much patience, let us endeavour to ' restore ' them that have been ' overtaken in a fault,' and seek by private efforts, as well as by our public ministrations, to recover the fallen ' out of the snare of the devil.' And, lastly, when we go to our country appointments on week evenings, let us secure time, before the public service, for the pastoral visitation of village Methodists (1820, vol. v., p. 150 ; 1821, vol. v., p. 249 ; 1830, vol. vi., p. 612 ; 1835, vol. vii., p. 552 ; 1847, vol. x., pp. 548, 549, 550, 557).

Oversight of the Young

In order that the Work of God may be perpetuated among us, let us, in public and in private, pay particular spiritual attention to the young people of our Societies and congregations. Let us

frequently and affectionately speak to them on their peculiar dangers and duties, and seek to enlist their intelligent sympathy with our doctrines and discipline ; and that they ' may be delivered from this present evil world, according to the will of God,' let us strive to lead them to an earnest consecration of themselves to the service of Christ and His Church.

And to secure increased facilities for such ministrations, let us, wherever practicable, make arrangements for obtaining pastoral access at stated times to the young persons of the Methodist families between the ages of fourteen to twenty-one ; with a view to promote their spiritual welfare by personal instruction, exhortation, appeal, and prayer (1820, vol. v., p. 149 ; 1827, vol. vi., p. 281 ; 1845, vol. x., p. 242).

Care for the Children

We are convinced of the obligation which rests on all Christian Pastors to feed and take the oversight of the lambs, as well as of the sheep of the flock of Christ ; and we agree to hold, wherever practicable, Weekly Meetings with the children of our people (1847, vol. x., p. 546 ; 1875, vol. xix., p. 711).

Sunday Schools

Let us afford to our Sunday Schools all possible encouragement and aid ; by attending their Committee and Teachers' Meetings ; by visiting the principal Schools at least once in every quarter ; and by giving, as occasion serves, advice and counsel to the Officers and Teachers (1826, vol. vi., p. 170).

Catechetical Instruction

Let us recommend, both in Sunday Schools and in the families of our people, the practice of Catechetical instruction in order that ' being rooted and grounded ' in ' those things which are most surely believed among us,' our children may in after-years ' hold fast the form of sound words.' And let us commend everywhere our own Catechisms (1820, vol. v., p. 150).

Cottage Prayer Meeting

Let us encourage Prayer Meetings in the houses of our friends at such times as will not interfere with attendance at our Chapels

and other preaching-places. For when prudently conducted by persons of established piety and competent gifts, and duly superintended by the Ministers and the Leaders' Meetings, such services are productive of much good among the poor ; and have often proved the means of grace and salvation to many who could not, at first, have been reached in any other way (1820, vol. v., p. 148).

Cottage Preaching

In populous neighbourhoods where there is a general neglect of the means of grace already established, let us preach in private houses, especially in the cottages of the poor ; that so we may gain access to ' them that are without,' and, by the Divine blessing, bring them under concern for salvation, and win them over to attendance on public worship in the house of God (1821, vol. v., p. 249).

Forming New Classes

In our old and large Societies especially, let us from time to time appoint new Leaders, active and zealous men and women, ' of honest report, and full of the Holy Ghost and of wisdom,' and encourage them to form new Classes in suitable neighbourhoods ; and let us seek thus to gather into the fold of Christ those persons who, it may be, live at a distance from any chapel, yet are ' not far from the kingdom of God ' ; but who need special invitation, and are not likely to ' give themselves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God,' without more than ordinary enterprise and spiritual attention (1820, vol. v., p. 148).

Visitation of Villages

In country places, where it is not possible at present to appoint Preachers regularly, let suitable persons attend, under the direction of the Superintendent, for the purpose of public prayer and exhortation, and occasionally to read to the congregation a short and plain sermon, until such places can be supplied regularly with Local Preachers. And let us conscientiously care for and watch over the country places already on the plan (1820, vol. v., p. 147).

Opening New Places

In every Circuit, let us try to open new places, and let us try again places which have not been recently visited ; and let us not be satisfied until every town, village, and hamlet shall be blessed, so far as we can accomplish it, with the means of grace and salvation. And with a view to a revival and extension of the Work of God, let us have recourse, even in our old-established Circuits, to the practice of preaching out of doors ; seeking, in order to save that which is lost (1820, vol. v., p. 147).

Extension of Methodism

In a word, let every one of us consider himself called to be, in point of enterprise, zeal, and diligence, a Home Missionary ; and to enlarge and extend, as well as keep, the Circuit to which he is appointed (1820, vol. v., p. 148).

Official Meetings

In conducting Quarterly Meetings, and all other Official Meetings, let us steadily discourage the spirit of strife and debate, and firmly disallow the introduction of all topics of irritating discussion not legitimately arising out of the proper business of the Meeting. Let us remember that the only way to live in peace is to walk by rule ; and in the administration of all our affairs, in the Society and in the Circuit, let us cultivate the spirit and exhibit the manner of men who are acting for God in the service of His Church (1820, vol. v., p. 150).

Pastoral Responsibility

Whilst we readily and cheerfully protect our Office Bearers and Members, in Meetings over which we preside, in the exercise of such functions as belong to them according to our laws and usage,—let us not forget that we are under obligation to act on such occasions, not merely as the Chairmen of Public Meetings, but also as the Pastors of Christian Societies ; who, by the ordinance of God, and by their own voluntary association with us, are ‘ put in trust with ’ the Scriptural oversight of their spiritual affairs, and are directly responsible to the great Head of the Church for the discreet and faithful discharge of the duties of that ‘ trust ’ (1820, vol. v., p. 151).

Catholicity

Let us ourselves remember, and from time to time impress upon our people, that we, as a Connexion, do not exist for the purpose of party. If at any time we are tempted to 'entangle ourselves with affairs' which are foreign to the exclusive calling of Methodist Ministers, let us resolve, in dependence upon the grace of God, to keep aloof from all merely party purposes, and from party spirit. By the example of our Founder, by the original principle on which our Societies are formed, and by our professions before the world, we are bound to beware of a sectarian spirit, to avoid the appearance of bigotry, and to abstain from disputes on minor subjects of theological controversy. In our occasional intercourse with the Ministers and Members of other Churches, 'let every one of us please his neighbour, for his good, to edification'; and towards all denominations of Christians 'holding the Head,' let us maintain the kind and catholic spirit of primitive Methodism, and ever show ourselves 'the friends of all, the enemies of none' (1820, vol. v., p. 148; 1835, vol. vii., p. 552).

Conclusion

And being deeply sensible that, in order to the revival and extension of the Work of God, the great thing to be desired is an abundant effusion of the Holy Spirit on ourselves and our families, our Societies and our Congregations; we solemnly agree to seek that blessing by humble and earnest prayer; in our private supplications, in our family devotions, and in the pulpit; and we desire to 'continue with one accord in prayer and supplication' 'until the Spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest' (1820, vol. v., p. 152; 1822, vol. v., p. 338).

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING MINISTERS GENERALLY

Keeping up our own Discipline

In addition to the zealous and faithful preaching of the Gospel in all our congregations, and wherever we can obtain access for that purpose, we once more earnestly exhort our Preachers

firmly, vigilantly, and affectionately to enforce, in all our Societies, every part of our Discipline.

We particularly require that the Societies shall be frequently met, apart from the congregation at large, and suitably addressed on the various relative duties, on the due sanctification of the Sabbath, and other appropriate topics. And that when the Lord's Supper is administered, the Communicants shall be previously required to produce their Society Tickets, or Notes of Admission, according to our established Rules (1825, vol. vi., p. 65).

Sunday Evening Prayer Meetings

Though the Conference approves of occasional Meetings for Prayer in our Chapels, after the evening preaching on the Lord's Day, as there are seasons when an extraordinary influence may render them proper ; yet it advises that such Meetings shall be only occasional, and that the Preacher's ordinary practice shall be to meet the Societies, and give suitable counsel to the various classes of our people (1836, vol. viii., p. 86).

Special Society Meetings

In addition to the practice of meeting the Societies weekly on the evening of the Lord's Day, the Conference recommends that the Preachers should appoint times, whether once in a month or once in a quarter, for holding Special Society Meetings, either on the afternoon of the Sabbath or on some evening of the week, to be devoted exclusively to that purpose ; when, if practicable, all the Preachers of the Circuit should be present, and unite in endeavouring to make such Special Society Meetings instructive and useful to our people (1836, vol. viii., p. 87).

Class Meetings

The Conference cherishes an ever-deepening conviction of the value of that spiritual fellowship with each other which our people have been wont to maintain in a regular attendance on our Class Meetings ; believing that, in this course, the Members of our Societies, of all ages, and all varieties of knowledge, position, and attainment, are best enabled to walk comfortably with God, to nourish that simple and ardent piety which is their only safe-

guard against the dangers and seductions of the age, to train up spiritually-minded Office Bearers for future service, and to prepare to render up their account with joy. The Conference, therefore, exhorts all our Ministers to watch over our Class Meetings with holy jealousy ; to use every effort to maintain them strictly in all their efficiency ; and with unceasing diligence, to direct both their public instructions and their private pastoral influence towards this object (1855, vol. xiii., p. 110).

Class Books

The Conference requires every Minister to see that the Class Books are properly filled up and kept ; especially with reference to the insertion of the names and residences of the Members : and to make such use of these Books as he may deem necessary for the purpose of Pastoral Visitation (1847, vol. x., p. 549).

Class Leaders

The Conference enjoins that the attention of the Class Leaders be again particularly directed to that original Rule of our Societies which requires Leaders to give stated information to the Minister of those Members who are sick, or need to be specially visited (1847, vol. x., p. 549).

Recognition of New Members

The Conference resolves that it is very desirable to adopt some more public and formal mode of admitting New Members into Society. But that, as the circumstances of different Circuits, in town and country, are very dissimilar, it is not expedient to lay down specific Rules as to the exact nature of the Meetings to be held for the reception of New Members, or as to the frequency with which such Meetings should be held (1878, p. 186).

Keeping in Our Own Circuits

The Conference enjoins it as a sacred duty upon all the Preachers, and especially on those excellent Brethren who are most frequently selected for such occasions (preaching Anniversary Sermons), to restrict their engagements of that kind within such bounds as will consist with their paramount and indispensable obligations to their own Circuits (1836, vol. viii., p. 87).

RESOLUTIONS AFFECTING SUPERINTENDENTS ESPECIALLY**Examination of Class Leaders**

Let a strict inquiry be made by the Superintendent Preacher in the Leaders' Meeting, at least twice in the year, into the moral character of all the Leaders ; their punctuality in beginning and ending their Class Meetings in proper time ; and everything that relates to their office (1811, vol. iii., p. 222).

Local Preachers

Considering the exigencies of our work, and the fact that our supply of Ministers is drawn from our Local Preachers, the Conference resolves that it is desirable and necessary that steps should be taken to secure in every Circuit an ample and efficient supply of this most useful class of labourers. And that Superintendents should direct their special attention to eligible and promising young men in their respective Circuits, with a view to their becoming Local Preachers ; and, as far as practicable, should direct their reading and studies to that end.

The Conference further recommends that, wherever it is practicable, a Theological Class shall be formed in each Circuit, for the purpose of assisting the Local Preachers in their Theological studies (1876, vol. xx., p. 156).

Pastoral Address to be Given

The Superintendents are directed gratuitously to furnish to every Local Preacher, Steward, and Class Leader, in their respective Circuits, a copy of the Annual Pastoral Address of the Conference to the Methodist Societies (1837, vol. viii., p. 225).

Pastoral Address to be Read

The Superintendents are directed to appoint at each principal Chapel in their Circuits a Special Society Meeting, for the purpose of having the Pastoral Address read to the Society, and made the subject of suitable remarks and exhortations (1838, vol. viii., p. 360).

Individual Responsibility

The Conference directs that each large Circuit be divided into

Sections, according to a mutual arrangement to be made by the Ministers at their Weekly Meetings ; and that each Minister be held responsible for the visitation of his own Section (1847, vol. x., p. 550).

Official Inquiry

The Conference directs that this important department of Ministerial duty be statedly made the subject of direct and specific inquiry and conversation, both by the Superintendents of Circuits in their Weekly Meetings with their respective colleagues, and by the Chairmen of Districts in their several District Synods (1847, vol. x., p. 550).

Evening Visitation

The Conference suggests that the general Ministerial duties of Circuits should, in given cases, be so allotted and arranged as that families, especially among the working classes, which cannot be collected or found during the day, may be visited in the evening (1847, vol. x., p. 548).

Weekly Children's Meetings

The Preachers are solemnly enjoined to hold, wherever practicable, regular weekly meetings with the Children of our people, under the age of fourteen, on the most convenient day of the week, in every town where a Preacher has his stated residence, according to our ancient rule and practice. And inquiry shall be made in Ministers' Meetings, and in the May District Synods, respecting the observance of this Regulation (1875, vol. xix., p. 711).

Junior Society Classes

The Conference resolves that Junior Society Classes, which directly provide for the religious instruction and training of young people—which have as their object the awakening of Christian sensibility and the development of Christian experience and character, and which for these purposes specifically make use of Scripture instruction—shall be generally established in connexion with our Societies (1878, p. 184).

Examination in Catechism

The Conference recommends the Superintendents of Circuits, wherever they may find it practicable, to make arrangements, in conjunction with the Sunday School Committees, for the Annual Public Examination in the Catechism of the Children of our Sunday Schools; and that such an Examination shall, where possible, be held in the Chapels (1882, p. 224).

Roll of Membership

Every Superintendent is required to leave for his successor an exact list of the names of all the Members in his Circuit, arranged in their several Classes and Societies, as found at the preceding Midsummer Visitation (1820, vol. v., p. 152).

3rd Dec. 1832

VI

THE TRUSTS OF THE CHAPEL MODEL DEED

Trustees to build Chapel

Upon trust, that they the said Parties hereto of the first part, and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of such survivor, or the Trustees, or Trustee, for the time being, acting in the trusts of these presents, shall and do, with and out of the moneys now or which may hereafter be possessed by them or him for that purpose, and as soon after the execution of these Presents as conveniently may be, erect and build upon the said piece or parcel of ground, or upon some part thereof, and from time to time, and at all times hereafter, whenever it shall be necessary for the due accomplishment of the trusts of these presents, or of any of them, repair, alter, enlarge, and rebuild, a Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and a dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, vestry-room, or vestry-rooms, school-room, or school-rooms, and other offices, conveniences, and appurtenances, or with or without any of them respectively as, and in such manner as, the Trustees for the time being of these presents shall, from time to time, deem necessary or expedient :

To permit duly-appointed Preachers to Preach

And upon further trust, from time to time, and at all times after the erection thereof, to permit and suffer the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship with the appurtenances, to be used, occupied and enjoyed, as and for a place of Religious Worship, by a congregation of Protestants, of the said people called Methodists, in the Connexion established by the said late John Wesley as aforesaid, and for public and other meetings, and services, held according to the General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists; and do and shall, from time to time and at all

times hereafter, permit and suffer such person and persons as are hereinafter mentioned or designated, and such person and persons only, to preach, and expound God's Holy Word, and to perform the usual acts of Religious Worship therein ; that is to say, such person and persons, as shall be from time to time approved, and for that purpose duly appointed, by the said Conference of the said people called Methodists, from time to time held under the orders and regulations of the said in part recited Deed Poll ; and also such other person and persons as shall be thereunto from time to time duly permitted or appointed (according to the General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists), by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall for the time being be situated ; and also such other person and persons, as shall be thereunto from time to time duly appointed, by any authority lawfully constituted by the said Conference, or under or by virtue of these presents, to fill up any vacancy or vacancies, at any time occasioned by the death, removal, or suspension of a Preacher or Preachers, in or during any interval between the sittings of the said Conference ; but only until the then next Conference, and in no case any other person or persons whomsoever :

Times, Manner, and Conduct of Services

And it is hereby declared, that the Times and Manner of the various services and ordinances of Religious Worship, to be observed and performed in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall be regulated according to the General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists ; and that the officiating Preacher for the time being, whether appointed by the said Conference, or permitted or appointed by the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being, or otherwise permitted or appointed as in these presents is mentioned, shall have the direction and conducting of the same worship, in conformity nevertheless to the said General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists :

Proviso respecting Preachers Immoral, Erroneous in Doctrine, or Deficient in Ability

Provided always, and it is hereby declared that, if at any time

or times hereafter, the Trustees for the time being of these presents or a majority of them ; or if the Stewards and Leaders of Classes for the time being of the Society of the said people called Methodists, assembling at or belonging to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or a majority of them, shall believe that any Preacher appointed at any time by the said Conference as aforesaid, is either Immoral, Erroneous in Doctrine, or Deficient in Ability (unless the question of such Immorality, Erroneousness in Doctrine, or Deficiency in Ability, shall have been previously inquired into and disposed of, by the Preachers for the time being appointed by the said Conference, to the Circuits of the District in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Trustees for the time being, and also to the satisfaction of a majority of the said Society Stewards and Leaders of Classes, for the time being, as aforesaid), then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for the said Trustees for the time being or a majority of them, or for the said Society Stewards and Leaders of Classes for the time being or a majority of them, to summon the Preachers of the District in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, and also all the Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders of the Circuit, in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, to meet in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, on a day and hour to be appointed for that purpose (and of which, notice in writing shall, at least fourteen days previously, be personally served upon the said Preachers, Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, or left for, or sent by post to, him and them respectively, at his and their most usual place or places of abode, or business), and the Chairman of the District shall be President of the assembly, and every Preacher, Trustee, Steward, and Leader shall have a single vote, and in case of an equality of votes, the Chairman shall possess the casting voice ; and if the majority of the meeting adjudge, that the accused Preacher is Immoral, Erroneous in Doctrine, or deficient in Abilities, he shall be considered as removed from the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall for the time being be situated ; and the District Committee (or District Meeting, as the same Committee is now generally called), shall, as soon as possible thereafter, appoint another Preacher for that

Circuit, to continue till the ensuing Conference, instead of the Preacher so removed, and shall determine among themselves, how the removed Preacher shall be disposed of, till the ensuing Conference, and shall have authority to suspend the said Preacher from all public duties, till the ensuing Conference, if they judge proper ; and, if any such Preacher shall refuse to submit to the above mode of trial, in any of the cases above-mentioned, he shall be considered as suspended till the ensuing Conference, and the District Committee (or District Meeting, as the same Committee is now generally called), shall also supply, as well as possible, the place of the removed or suspended Preacher, till another Preacher be appointed ; and, the Preacher thus appointed, and all other Preachers, shall be subject to the above mode of trial ; and, if the District Committee (or District Meeting, as the same Committee is now generally called), do not appoint a Preacher for that Circuit, instead of the removed or suspended Preacher, within one calendar month after the said removal or suspension, or do not fill the place of the removed or suspended Preacher, till another Preacher be appointed, the majority of the said Meeting of the said Trustees, Stewards, and Leaders, being again regularly summoned as aforesaid, shall appoint a Preacher for the said Circuit, provided he be a member of the Methodist Connexion (that is to say, one of the said people called Methodists), till the ensuing Conference :

Proviso respecting Doctrines

Provided always, that, no person or persons whomsoever, shall at any time hereafter, be permitted to Preach or Expound God's Holy Word, or to perform any of the usual acts of Religious Worship, upon the said piece of ground and hereditaments, nor in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, nor in or upon the appurtenances thereto belonging, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof, who shall maintain, promulgate, or teach, any Doctrine, or Practice, contrary to what is contained in certain Notes on the New Testament, commonly reputed to be the Notes of the said John Wesley, and in the First Four volumes of Sermons, commonly reputed to be written and published by him :

School-room

And upon further trust, in case a School-room or School-rooms shall be erected or provided upon the said piece of ground or any part thereof, as aforesaid, or, if there shall be no separate School-room or School-rooms, and it shall by the Trustees for the time being of these presents or the major part of them, be thought necessary or expedient, to hold and teach a Sunday or other School or Schools, in any proper part of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, then, to permit and suffer a Sunday or other School or Schools, to be held, conducted and carried on from time to time, in the said School-room or School-rooms, or, if it shall be thought necessary or expedient as aforesaid, in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, as aforesaid, but if in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, then only at such hours and times as shall not interfere with the Public Worship of Almighty God therein ; and in all cases, whether in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship or not, under such government, orders, and Regulations, as the said Conference have directed or appointed, or shall hereafter from time to time direct or appoint ; and also, subject always, to the proviso hereinbefore contained respecting Doctrines :

Enlargement of Chapel

Provided always, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents or the major part of them, when and so often as they shall deem the same necessary or expedient, to take down and remove the said Chapel, vestry-room, or vestry-rooms, school-room, or school-rooms, dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, offices, conveniences, or appurtenances to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises belonging, or appertaining, or all, or any of them, or any part or parts thereof respectively, for the purpose of rebuilding the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or for the purpose of building, or rebuilding, any other vestry-room, or vestry-rooms, school-room, or school-rooms, dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, offices, conveniences, and appurtenances, or enlarging, or altering the same respectively, or all, or any of them, so as to render the premises the better adapted to, and for the due accomplishment of the trusts, intents, and purposes, of these presents :

Power to Mortgage

And it is hereby declared, that, from time to time and at all times hereafter, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, to mortgage, and for that purpose to appoint, convey, and assure, in fee, or for any term, or terms of years, the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts thereof respectively, to any person or persons whomsoever, for securing such sum or sums of money, as may be requisite, or necessary, in, or for, the due execution, and accomplishment, of the trusts and purposes of these presents, or any of them, according to the true intent and meaning thereof ; Nevertheless it is hereby declared that, no mortgage, or mortgages, nor any disposition whatsoever by way of mortgage, shall at any time hereafter be made, of the said Trust premises, or of any part or parts thereof, under or by virtue of these presents, unless such mortgage, or mortgages, shall in the aggregate amount to, and cover, the whole debt, or the aggregate amount of the whole of the debts, which at the time of the execution of such mortgage, or mortgages, shall be due and owing, either legally, or equitably, in respect, or on account of, or in relation to, the said Trust premises, or some part, or parts thereof, respectively, or from the said Trustees for the time being, or any of them, for, or on account, or in respect of the said Trust premises, or some part, or parts thereof, respectively, excepting only such debt and debts as may then be accruing due, for, or on account of, the ordinary current expenses of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises ; but it is hereby declared, that it shall not be incumbent upon any mortgagee, or mortgagees, or upon any intended mortgagee, or mortgagees, of the said Trust premises, or any part or parts thereof, to inquire into the necessity, expediency, or propriety, of any mortgage, or mortgages, which shall be made, or be proposed to be made, under or by virtue of these presents, or whether the same is, or are, made, or intended to be made, for the whole amount of the debt, or of the aggregate amount of the debts, which shall be so due and owing as aforesaid ; Nor shall anything in these presents contained, or which may be contained in any such mortgage, or mortgages, extend, or be construed to extend, unless where the contrary

shall, with the full knowledge and consent of the said Trustees for the time being or the major part of them, be therein actually expressed, to hinder, prevent, or make unlawful, the taking down, removing, enlarging, or altering, the said buildings and premises, or any of them, respectively, as is in these presents before mentioned and provided for, in that behalf, nor in any manner to hinder, prevent, or interfere with, the due execution of the Trusts or purposes of these presents, or any of them, so long as such mortgagee, or mortgagees, his, her, and their, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, shall not be in the actual possession, as such mortgagee, or mortgagees, of the hereditaments comprised, or to be comprised, in such mortgage or mortgages; any thing in these presents contained to the contrary, in any wise notwithstanding:

Pews, Houses, School-rooms, Graves, and Tombs

And upon further trust, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, to Let the pews, and seats, in the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, at a reasonable rent, or reasonable rents, (reserving as many free seats for the poor, where, and as may be thought, necessary or expedient) and, if there shall be any such dwelling-house, or dwelling-houses, school-room, or school-rooms, or any of them, erected and built as aforesaid, then to let the same, or any of them, at a reasonable rent, or reasonable rents, and also, if there shall be a cemetery or burial ground, to let graves, and tombs, at a reasonable rent, or reasonable rents, or to sell graves, and tombs, at a reasonable price, or reasonable prices, and to collect, get in, and receive, the rents, profits, and income, to arise in any manner from the said premises (excepting moneys which shall from time to time arise from collections or subscriptions duly made therein, according to the General Rules of the said people called Methodists, for other purposes, than for the immediate purposes of the said trust estate), as and when the same shall, from time to time, become due and payable, but not (excepting as to moneys from time to time received for graves and tombs), by way of anticipation, further than for the quarter, or half-year, or year (as may be thought most expedient), immediately following the quarter day, that is to say, the twenty-fifth day of March, the twenty-fourth day of June, the twenty-ninth day of September, and the twenty-fifth day of December,

respectively, as the case may be, next after the receipt thereof :

Appropriation of Rents and Profits

And it is hereby declared, that the Trustee and Trustees for the time being of these presents shall stand and be possessed of the money, arising from the said rents, profits, and income (except as aforesaid), UPON TRUST, thereout to pay, in the first place such duties, taxes, rates, and other outgoings (if any), as from time to time shall be lawfully payable, in respect of the said premises, or any part or parts thereof ; and also the costs, charges, and expenses, of insuring, and keeping insured, the said trust-premises, against loss or damage, by fire, in such sum or sums, as the said Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, shall from time to time think proper, or expedient, and in repairing, and keeping the said trust-premises, in good repair, and condition ; and likewise, the interest of all principal moneys borrowed, and then due and owing on security of the said trust-premises ; or of any part or parts thereof, by virtue of these presents ; and then, to retain to, and reimburse themselves, respectively, all costs, charges, and expenses, lawfully incurred and paid by them, in or about the due execution, of the trusts of these presents, or any of them ; and in the next place, thereout to pay and discharge, the necessary costs, charges, and expenses, from time to time incurred, in cleansing, lighting, and attending to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises ; and generally, to liquidate any debts, costs, charges, incumbrances, and expenses, at any time lawfully incurred under, or occasioned by, the due execution of the trusts of these presents, or any of them, and not included in any of the provisions aforesaid :

Appropriation of Surplus Money

And upon further trust, from time to time to pay and apply any surplus money, remaining after the due payment of all such lawful debts, costs, charges, incumbrances, and expenses as aforesaid (but according, and in conformity to, the General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists), for, or towards, the support of the Preacher, or Preachers, for the time being respectively appointed by the said Conference, or otherwise as

aforesaid, either in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, or in that, and some other Circuit or Circuits, or in some other Circuit or Circuits only ; or, for or towards the purpose of assisting, or increasing, the funds of any other Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or Chapels or places of Religious Worship, appropriated to the use of the said people called Methodists, or in building any new Chapel or place of Religious Worship, or Chapels or places of Religious Worship, for the use of the said people called Methodists, and which shall be settled, upon such, or similar, trusts, ends, intents, and purposes, as are in these presents mentioned ; or in subscribing, or giving, to any of the general funds, objects, or charities, of the said people called Methodists ; or for or towards all, or any of the purposes, objects, funds, or charities, hereinbefore mentioned, in such manner as the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, shall from time to time think necessary or expedient :

Power to Subscribe to the Funds of the Connexion

And it is hereby declared, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them (although there shall not then be any such surplus money as aforesaid), from time to time, to Subscribe or Give, such sum and sums of money, as they shall think necessary or expedient, and may be conveniently spared, from the funds of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, for or towards all or any of the purposes, objects, funds, or charities aforesaid :

Power to Appoint Chapel Stewards and Treasurer

And it is hereby declared, that it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, at any Meeting to be convened and held as hereinafter mentioned, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, at their discretion, to appoint any person, or persons, of decent and sober conduct and good reputation, to be a Steward or Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and at their will and pleasure, to remove and to dismiss such Steward, or Stewards, or any of them ; and the duty of the Steward, and Stewards, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall be, to see and attend to, the orderly conducting of the secular business and

affairs, of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, under the direction and superintendence of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them ; and also in like manner to appoint any proper person, or persons, to be a Treasurer, or Treasurers, of the funds of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, and at their will and pleasure, to remove and to dismiss such Treasurer or Treasurers, or any of them :

Account Books to be Kept

And it is hereby declared, that the Trustees and Trustee for the time being of these presents, shall, themselves, or by their Steward, or Stewards, Treasurer or Treasurers, keep a Book, or Books, of Accounts, in which from time to time shall be plainly, legibly, and regularly entered, an account of every receipt and disbursement, by them, him, or any of them, received, or made, and also, of all debts and credits, due to, and owing from or in respect of, the said trust-premises, or any part or parts thereof, and also of all other documents, articles, matters, and things necessary for the due and full explanation and understanding, of the same Book and Books of Accounts ; and shall also in like manner, keep a Book or Books of Minutes, in which from time to time shall be plainly, legibly, and regularly entered, Minutes of all Trustee meetings from time to time held under or by virtue of these presents, and of the resolutions passed, and of all proceedings, acts and business had, taken and done thereat, and also of all documents, articles, matters, and things necessary for the due and full explanation and understanding of the same Minutes, and all other things, done in and about the execution of the trusts of these presents :

Books to be Shown to the Superintendent on Request

And shall and will, from time to time, and at all seasonable times hereafter, upon the request of the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, produce and show forth, to him, and to every person whom he shall desire to see the same, all and every such Book and Books of Accounts and Minutes, documents, articles, matters, and things,

and permit and suffer copies, or abstracts of, or extracts from them, or any of them, to be made and taken, by the said Superintendent Preacher, or by any person or persons whom he shall from time to time desire to make and take the same :

Accounts to be Audited Yearly

And the said Book and Books of Accounts and Minutes, and all documents, articles, matters, and things, relating in any wise to the said trust-premises, shall, at least once in the year, and oftener, if the said Superintendent shall at any time desire, and shall give notice thereof, in manner hereinafter mentioned, be regularly, upon a day to be appointed by the said Superintendent for the time being, or with his concurrence, Examined and Audited, by the Superintendent, and the Circuit Steward, or Circuit Stewards, if more than one, for the time being, of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, at a meeting convened for that purpose ; and of every such meeting, Fourteen days' Notice in writing, specifying the time, place, and purpose, of such meeting, shall and may be given under the direction of the said Superintendent for the time being, by any one or more of them, the said Trustees and Trustee for the time being, to each and every the other and others of them the said Trustees and Trustee, Circuit Stewards and Circuit Steward for the time being, and either personally served upon him and them respectively, or left for, or sent by the Post to, him and them at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business :

Auditors may Appoint Deputies

And in order to facilitate the Auditing of the said accounts, minutes, documents, articles, matters, and things, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent, Circuit Steward, and Circuit Stewards, for the time being as aforesaid, or either, or any of them, to appoint in writing a Deputy, or Deputies, to act therein for them, and him respectively as aforesaid, and for that purpose, any one or more of them, may be the Deputy, or Deputies, of the other or others of them, the said Superintendent, Circuit Steward and Circuit Stewards :

Auditors to Sign the Accounts

And it is hereby declared, that the Signatures of all of them, the said Auditors, Deputies, and Deputy, or of the aggregate majority of them, written in the said Book and Books of Accounts and Minutes respectively, shall be sufficient evidence, that all the matters and things relating to the said trust-premises which were, up to that time included in the said Books, Accounts, Minutes, and Documents, matters, and things, were duly examined, audited, and approved of unless and except so far as, the contrary shall be therein by them or by the aggregate majority of them, in writing expressed :

Notice of Meetings for Special Business

And it is hereby declared, that every Meeting, for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety of making any alteration of, or addition to, or Mortgage or sale of, the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, and premises, or any part or parts thereof, or for contracting any debt, upon, for, or on account thereof (other than for the ordinary current expenses thereof), or for letting any such house or houses, school-room or school-rooms, as aforesaid, or for fixing the rents or prices, or making or altering rules to ascertain the rents or prices, of such graves, tombs, pews, and seats as aforesaid, or for appropriating the funds or any part of the funds of the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship (otherwise than for the due payment of the ordinary current expenses thereof), or, for bringing or defending any action or actions, suit or suits, respecting the said Trust Estates and premises, or any parts thereof, or any matter relating thereto, or for any one or more of the above purposes, shall be, and shall be deemed and taken to be, a Special Meeting ; and of every such Meeting, Fourteen days' Notice in writing, specifying the time, place, and purpose, or purposes of such meeting, and signed by at least either two of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or by the Superintendent Preacher for the time being, shall be given to the other, and others, of them and him, the said Trustees, and Superintendent Preacher (unless where he himself is the person giving such notice), and either personally served, upon him and them, or left for, or sent by

Post to, him and them, respectively, at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business :

Meetings for Ordinary Business, and in Cases of Urgent Necessity

And, for the purpose of transacting the Ordinary Business relating to the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, or for any other purpose relating to these presents or the trusts thereof (except where fourteen days' notice is expressed or required as hereinbefore is mentioned), a meeting of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, may be held, with the said Superintendent for the time being, as aforesaid, so soon as the same can be conveniently convened, by notice in writing, specifying the time and place of such meeting, given and signed by at least either two of the said Trustees for the time being, or by the said Superintendent for the time being, and either Personally served upon, or left for, or sent by the Post as aforesaid to, the other and others of them respectively at his and their most usual place and places of abode or business :

Meetings Valid though Notice does not reach Trustees who cannot be found

Provided always, and it is hereby declared that, no meeting held under or by virtue of these presents shall be invalid, or the Resolutions thereof void or impeached, by reason that any such notice or notices as aforesaid, may not, or shall not, have reached any Trustee or Trustees for the time being of these presents, who, at the time of any such meeting, happens to be beyond seas, or who, or whose place or places of abode or business, shall not be known to, and cannot reasonably be found or discovered by, the person or persons who is or are respectively as aforesaid authorized, to give any such notice or notices as aforesaid :

Voting

And it is hereby declared, that, at any meeting held under or by virtue of these presents, or of the trusts hereof, or any of them, the votes of the persons present and entitled to vote, or the votes of a majority of them, shall decide any question or matter proposed at such meeting, and respecting which such Votes shall be given ; And in case the Votes shall be equally divided, then the

Chairman of such meeting shall give the casting Vote, and which casting Vote he shall have, in addition to the Vote which he shall be entitled to, in his character of Trustee, Superintendent Preacher, or otherwise :

Persons who shall Decide what is Necessary or Expedient

And it is hereby declared, that, whenever it shall be thought necessary, or expedient, to do anything in and by these presents directed, authorized, or made lawful to be done, the necessity, or expediency, of doing the same, shall, in like manner, be decided by the persons present, and entitled to vote upon the question to be determined, or by the majority of them, and if there shall be an even division, then by such casting Vote as aforesaid ; and all acts and deeds, done and executed in pursuance of any such decision as aforesaid, at any such meeting as aforesaid, shall be good, valid, and binding, on all persons entitled to vote at the meeting, who may be absent, or being present, may be in the minority, and on all other persons claiming, under or in pursuance of these presents ; but no person (unless where the contrary is hereinbefore expressly mentioned) shall be allowed to vote in more than one capacity, at the same time, or on the same question, although holding more than one office at the same time, in the Society of the said people called Methodists, or in the same meeting :

General Rules and Usage

And it is hereby declared, that the ' General Rules and Usage of the said people called Methodists,' in these presents mentioned or referred to, are the General Rules, Usage and Practice of the whole Body of the said people called Methodists throughout Great Britain, as the same General Rules, Usage and Practice respectively appear, in and by the Annual Minutes of the said Conference, from time to time printed and published by them, under the authority of the said in part recited Deed Poll, but subject at all times to the Proviso respecting Doctrines in these presents contained :

The Chairman

Provided always, and it is hereby declared that, excepting

where the contrary is in these presents expressly declared or provided for, the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situated, or his Deputy thereunto from time to time by him nominated and appointed in writing under his hand, shall be the Chairman of, and shall preside at, and shall have a Vote as such Superintendent Preacher or Deputy in, all meetings held under or by virtue of these presents; but in case the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being or his Deputy to be so appointed as aforesaid, shall at any time neglect to attend at any such meeting as aforesaid, or if the said Superintendent Preacher or his Deputy appointed as aforesaid, shall attend, but shall refuse to act as the Chairman at any such meeting as aforesaid, or if the said Superintendent Preacher shall not attend at any such meeting, and shall neglect to appoint a Deputy as aforesaid, then, and in every and any of the said cases, it shall be lawful for the persons for the time being composing such meeting, and entitled to vote thereat, or for a majority of them, to elect and choose from among themselves, a Chairman to preside for the time being at any such meeting as aforesaid, and every meeting so held upon any such neglect or refusal of the said Superintendent Preacher or his Deputy as aforesaid, shall be as valid and effectual, as if the said Superintendent or his Deputy as aforesaid had been the Chairman thereof, and had presided thereat:

Power for Trustees, with the consent of the Conference, to sell and convey

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, with the consent of the said Conference, such consent to be testified in writing under the hand of the President for the time being of the said Conference, at any time or times hereafter, absolutely to Sell and dispose of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of such part or parts of the same, respecting which such consent in writing as aforesaid shall be given, either by public sale or private contract, and together, or in parcels, and either at one and the same time, or at different times, for the best price or prices, in money, that can be reasonably obtained for the same, and well

and effectually to convey and assure the hereditaments and premises so sold, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her, or their heirs and assigns, or as he, she, or they, shall direct or appoint; and the hereditaments and premises so sold, and conveyed, and assured as aforesaid, shall thenceforth be held and enjoyed by the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, freed, and absolutely discharged from these presents, and from the trusts hereby declared, and every of them:

Appropriation of the Purchase Money

And the Trustees and Trustee for the time being, acting in the trusts of these presents, shall apply the money which shall arise from every such sale as aforesaid, so far as the same money will extend, to the discharge of all the incumbrances, liabilities, and responsibilities, whether personal or otherwise, lawfully contracted or occasioned by virtue of these presents, or in the due execution of the trusts thereof, or of any of them; and subject thereto, either for or toward promoting the preaching of the Gospel amongst the said people called Methodists, in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship, shall, for the time being, be situated, or, for the purpose of procuring a larger, or more conveniently or eligibly situated piece of ground, and Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, and premises, in the place or stead of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises so sold and disposed of, to be settled upon the same trusts, and to and for the same ends, intents, and purposes, and with, under, and subject to the same powers, provisoes, and declarations, as are in and by these presents expressed and contained, or such of them as shall be then subsisting, or capable of taking effect:

Power to Sell under Exceptional Circumstances

Provided always, that, if at any time hereafter, the Income arising from the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, shall be inadequate to meet and discharge the interest of all moneys borrowed, and then due, and owing upon, or on account of, the said trust-premises, and the various current expenses attending the due

execution of the trusts of these presents, and, if the Trustees and Trustee for the time being of these presents, shall desire to retire and be discharged from the burden and execution of the said trusts, and, if no such proper persons as are hereinafter mentioned or described, can be found to take upon themselves the burden and execution of the said trusts, with the responsibility and liability to be thereby incurred, then, and in that case, it shall be lawful for the Trustees for the time being as aforesaid, or the major part of them, of their own proper authority, and without any such consent by the said Conference as aforesaid, to sell and dispose of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of any part or parts of the same respectively, either by public sale, or private contract, and either together, or in parcels, and either at one and the same time, or at different times, for the best price or prices in money, that can be reasonably obtained for the same ; and well and effectually to convey and assure the hereditaments and premises so sold, with the appurtenances, to the purchaser or purchasers thereof, his, her, or their heirs and assigns, or as he, she, or they shall direct or appoint, and the hereditaments and premises so sold, and conveyed and assured, as last aforesaid, shall thenceforth be held and enjoyed by the purchaser and purchasers thereof, his, her, and their heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, freed, and absolutely discharged, from these presents, and the trusts hereby declared, and every of them :

Appropriation of the Purchase Money

And all the money arising from every such last-mentioned sale, shall be applied, disposed of, and appropriated, as far as the same money will extend, to the purposes, and in the manner hereinbefore directed, with respect to any sale made in pursuance, or in consequence of, such consent, of or by the said Conference, as aforesaid : But it is hereby declared, that no sale shall be made by virtue of this present power or authority, unless the Trustees for the time being as aforesaid, or a majority of them, shall give notice in writing to the said Conference or to the President for the time being of the said Conference, on or before the first day of the then next annual meeting of the said Conference, of their intention to make such sale, and the reasons for the same ; nor unless the said Conference shall, for the space of six calendar

months next after the said first day of their said annual meeting, refuse or neglect, either to give, grant, or provide, the said Trustees and Trustee for the time being, with such pecuniary or other aid, assistance, and relief as shall enable them and him, to bear, and continue the burden of the execution of the trusts of these presents, or (as the case may be), to find and provide other Trustees, who will take upon themselves the burden of the execution of the said Trusts :

Receipts of Trustees to be Good Discharges

And it is hereby declared, that the Receipt and Receipts of a majority of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, shall, in all cases of payment made to them, or any of them, as such Trustees or Trustee as aforesaid, be a full discharge to the person or persons entitled to such receipt or receipts, his, her, and their, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for all mortgage moneys, purchase moneys, or other moneys, therein respectively expressed and acknowledged to have been received, by any such Trustees or Trustee, as aforesaid ; and in all cases, except for money paid and received in respect of any mortgage or sale of the said hereditaments and premises, or any part or parts thereof, as aforesaid, the receipt and receipts of any one or more of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or of any one or more of the Stewards or Treasurers for the time being, by the said Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, duly authorized to sign and give receipts, shall be a full discharge to the person and persons entitled to such receipt or receipts, his, her, and their, heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns, for all moneys (except as aforesaid), therein respectively expressed, and acknowledged to have been received by any such Trustee, Steward, or Treasurer, as aforesaid :

Purchasers or Mortgagees

And it is hereby declared, that it shall not be incumbent upon any mortgagee, or mortgagees, purchaser, or purchasers, of the said piece or parcel of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or of any part or parts thereof, respectively, to inquire into the necessity, expediency, or propriety, of any mortgage, sale, or disposition, of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments,

and premises, or of any part or parts thereof, made, or proposed to be made, by the said Trustees or Trustee for the time being, or the major part of them, as aforesaid, or whether any such notice, or notices as aforesaid, was or were duly given, or was or were valid or sufficient, or whether any Steward or Stewards, Treasurer or Treasurers, was or were duly authorized to sign, and give receipts as aforesaid; Nor shall it be incumbent upon any such mortgagee, or mortgagees, purchaser, or purchasers, or any of them, or for any other person or persons, his, her, or their, heirs, executors, administrators, or assigns, paying money to such Trustees or Trustee, or to their Steward or Stewards, Treasurer or Treasurers for the time being, as aforesaid, to see to the application, or to be answerable or accountable for the loss, misapplication, or non-application, of such purchase, or other money, or any part thereof, for which a receipt, or receipts, shall be so respectively given, as aforesaid :

Accountability of Trustees

And it is hereby declared, that the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of these presents, shall not, nor shall any of them, their, or any of their, heirs, executors, or administrators, or any of them, be chargeable or accountable for any involuntary loss suffered, by him, them, or any of them, nor any one or more of them for any other or others of them, nor for more money than shall come to their respective hands, nor for any injury done by others to the said trust-premises, or to any part or parts thereof :

Trustees Withdrawing, or Duly Excluded, from the Methodist Society

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that from time to time, and at all times hereafter, in case any Trustee or Trustees for the time being of these presents, shall voluntarily withdraw, or be duly excluded, from being a member, or members, of the said Methodist Society, and shall continue out of the said Methodist Society, for more than six calendar months then next following, then, and in every such case, upon the request in writing, of the other, and others, of the said Trustee or Trustees for the time being, or a majority of them, but not otherwise, he, and they, the Trustee and Trustees so withdrawing, or excluded from being a member or members of the said Methodist Society, and continuing

out of the said Society for the time aforesaid, shall, at the expense of the said trust-fund or estate and premises, and upon receiving such indemnity as is hereinafter mentioned, well and effectually release and relinquish the trusts by these presents created and declared, and well and effectually convey and assure the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship and premises, either unto, or to the use of, the other and others of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or otherwise, as shall or may be directed or appointed, under or by virtue of any power or authority hereinafter contained, for appointing new Trustees of these presents, or for increasing the number of such Trustees ; and shall not, nor will, thenceforth, act in, intermeddle, or in any wise interfere, in, or about, the execution of the trusts of these presents, or any of them, but shall, and will, thenceforth, permit and allow, all powers and authorities, given or created, in or by these presents, and all and every the act and acts, done, or to be done, under, or by virtue thereof, to be exercised, done, and performed by the other and others of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or a majority of them ; nevertheless, it is hereby expressly declared, that, in every such case, the Trustees or Trustee, so withdrawing or excluded from being a member or members, and continuing out of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, shall not be required to execute any release, conveyance, or assurance, as last mentioned, unless and until the other Trustees or Trustee for the time being as aforesaid, or the major part of them, shall have tendered to the Trustees or Trustee so withdrawing, or excluded, from being a member or members, and continuing out of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, a Bond, in a sufficient penalty, under the hands and seals of such other Trustees, or Trustee, or the major part of them, for indemnifying the Trustees or Trustee so withdrawing or excluded from being a member or members, and continuing out of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, and every of them, their, and every of their, heirs, executors, and administrators, of, and from, and against the payment of all and every sum and sums of money, costs, charges, and expenses, which he, they, or any of them, his, their, or any of their, heirs, executors, or administrators, either separately, or jointly, with any other Trustees or Trustee of the said trust-premises, may be bound, engaged, or liable to pay, in respect of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious

Worship and premises, or in, or about the due execution of, the trusts of these presents ; or in place of such bond or obligation, shall procure the Trustees or Trustee so withdrawing, or so excluded, from being a member or members, and continuing out of the said Methodist Society, for the time aforesaid, to be effectually released and discharged, of, and from, and against the payment of, all such sum and sums of money, costs, charges, and expenses, as last aforesaid, and from all liability on account or in respect thereof, or in any wise relating thereto ; And after the tender of such bond of indemnity or of such release as last aforesaid, all meetings held, and all acts, deeds, matters and things, done, performed, and executed by the other Trustees or Trustee for the time being of these presents, or a majority of them, shall be as valid and effectual to all intents and purposes whatsoever, as if the Trustee or Trustees so withdrawing, or excluded from being a member or members, and continuing out of the said Methodist Society as aforesaid, had actually released and relinquished the trusts of these presents, and every of them, and had actually conveyed and assured the said trust-premises as last aforesaid, anything in these presents contained to the contrary thereof, in any wise notwithstanding :

Future Election, if Eligible

Provided always, that nothing hereinbefore contained, shall be construed to prevent, or disqualify, any person or persons so withdrawing, or excluded as aforesaid, from being at any future time, nominated, appointed, and chosen (if then duly qualified) to be a Trustee or Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel or place of Religious Worship and premises, under or by virtue of the powers or authorities hereinafter contained, or either of them, for appointing new Trustees, or for increasing the number of the Trustees of these presents :

Deceased Trustees

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, upon the Decease of any Trustee or Trustees for the time being of these presents, the surviving Trustees and Trustee for the time being of these presents, shall

and will, within six calendar months next after request for that purpose, in writing, made to them or him, by the legal representative or representatives of such deceased Trustee or Trustees (but at the costs and charges in the law of such legal representative or representatives), respectively execute a Bond (in a sufficient penalty), or other obligation, to indemnify the legal representative or representatives of each and every deceased Trustee and Trustees, who shall make such request as aforesaid, his, her, and their lands, tenements, goods and chattels of, from, and against, all bonds, debts, covenants, obligations, notes, judgements, claims, and demands, whatsoever, which such deceased Trustee or Trustees had entered into, or become subject or liable to, on account or in respect of, the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or otherwise on account, or in respect, of the due execution of the trusts of these presents, or any of them ; or, in place or stead of such Bond or other obligation of indemnity, shall and will (at the choice and discretion of such surviving Trustees for the time being, upon such request, and at such costs and charges as last aforesaid), cause or procure such legal representative or representatives as aforesaid, to be well and effectually released, or otherwise discharged, of, from, and against, all and every such bonds, debts, covenants, notes, judgements, claims, and demands, as last aforesaid, and of, and from, every of them, and every part and parcel thereof, respectively :

Power to Appoint New Trustees

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, when and so often as the Trustees for the time being of these presents, shall by death, incapacity, or refusal to act in the trusts of these presents, or otherwise, be reduced to the number of Five Trustees, then, and in every such case, the Superintendent Preacher for the time being of the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship happens for the time being to be situate, shall, at a meeting of the Trustees for the time being of these presents, and of such Superintendent Preacher (such meeting to be convened in manner as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed respecting Special meetings), nominate as many persons, being members of the said

Society of the people called Methodists, in the Circuit in which the said Chapel or place of Religious Worship shall for the time being be situate (if a sufficient number of such persons can be there found willing to take upon themselves the burden and due execution of the trusts hereby declared, and if not, then being members of the said society in that and some neighbouring or other Circuit or Circuits), as the said Superintendent for the time being shall deem to be suitable persons, being not fewer than twice the number of Trustees then to be chosen, elected, and appointed (unless the old continuing Trustees shall be satisfied with his nominating a less number), and the old Trustees for the time being, or the major part of them, present at such meeting, shall thereupon choose, elect, and appoint, from amongst the said persons nominated as aforesaid, so many persons to be Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, and premises, as shall, together with such of the old Trustees as shall continue in the trusts of these presents, make up in the whole, the original number of Trustees ; or, if none of the old Trustees shall continue in the trusts of these presents, then, shall choose, elect, and appoint, so many of the persons nominated as aforesaid, as shall be equal to the original number of Trustees ; and the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances (excepting only such part and parts thereof as shall have been sold and conveyed under, or by virtue of, the powers for sale in these presents contained, or either of them), shall thereupon forthwith be legally and effectually conveyed and assured to, and vested in, such new, and such surviving, and continuing Trustees jointly, or to and in such new Trustees wholly, as the case may be, upon such and the same trusts, and to and for such and the same ends, intents, and purposes, and with, under, and subject to, such and the same powers, provisoes, declarations, clauses, and agreements, as are in and by these presents expressed, declared, contained, or referred to, of and concerning the same piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments, and premises, or such of them as shall be then subsisting, or capable of taking effect ; and to, for, or upon, no other use, trust, end, intent, or purpose whatsoever, anything herein contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding :

**Trustees may be Appointed, although Above or Reduced
Below the Specified Number**

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that, from time to time, and at all times hereafter, although the Trustees for the time being of these presents shall not be reduced to the number of five, or if (through accident, neglect, or otherwise, the appointment of new Trustees shall not be made upon their being reduced to that number, and), they shall be reduced to any less number than five, then, and in either of the said cases, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent Preacher, and the then surviving Trustees or Trustee, or the major part of them present at any meeting convened in manner as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed respecting Special meetings, to exercise, and execute, the power hereinbefore contained for the nomination, choice, and appointment of new Trustees, and for the then surviving Trustees and Trustee of these presents, to convey, and assure, the said trust-premises as last aforesaid, although the said surviving Trustees shall then either exceed, or shall be reduced to any number below, the said number of five :

Power to Increase the Number of Trustees

Provided always, and it is hereby declared, that, if at any time or times hereafter, the Trustees, or a majority of them, for the time being of these presents, shall judge it necessary or expedient, to increase the number of the Trustees of these presents, beyond the original number of Trustees, then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for the said Superintendent Preacher for the time being to nominate, as aforesaid, and for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or the major part of them, present at such meeting convened as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed respecting Special meetings, to choose, elect, and appoint, in the same manner as is hereinbefore mentioned and directed for the appointment and filling up of the original number of Trustees, any number of such proper persons as aforesaid, to be Trustees of the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, and premises, but so as the Trustees so to be elected and appointed as last aforesaid, together with such of the surviving Trustees as shall continue in the trusts of these presents, shall not in the whole exceed the number of THIRTY persons ; and

the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances (excepting only such part and parts thereof as shall have been sold and conveyed under or by virtue of the said powers of sale in these presents contained, or either of them), shall thereupon forthwith, be legally and effectually conveyed and assured to, and vested in, such continuing and new Trustees jointly, or, to and in such new Trustees wholly, as the case may be, upon such and the same trusts, and to and for such and the same ends, intents, and purposes, and with, under, and subject to, such and the same powers, provisoes, declarations, clauses, and agreements, as are in these presents expressed, declared, contained, or referred to, concerning the same piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or such of them as shall be then subsisting, or capable of taking effect ; and to, for, or upon, no other use, trust, end, intent, or purpose, whatsoever, anything in these presents contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding :

Power to bring Actions, and to refer Disputes to Arbitration

Provided lastly, and it is hereby declared, that, from time to time and at all times hereafter, it shall in all cases be lawful for the Trustees for the time being of these presents, in Special meeting assembled as aforesaid, or the majority of them, to bring or defend, any action or actions, suit or suits, respecting the said trust estate and premises, in the names or name of the Trustees or Trustee for the time being of these presents ; And also that, if any Difference, Disagreement, or Dispute, shall at any time or times hereafter, happen to arise between the Trustees or Trustee for the time being acting in the trusts of these presents, and any other person or persons whomsoever, touching or relating to any boundary, right, privilege, light, way, drain, easement, or any other matter or thing whatsoever, belonging or relating, or appertaining, or supposed, believed, or claimed to belong, relate, or appertain, to the said piece of ground, Chapel, or place of Religious Worship, hereditaments and premises, or to any part or parts thereof, and claimed or disputed by the party or parties in difference, disagreement, or dispute, then, and in every such case, it shall be lawful for, but not imperative upon, the Trustees for the time being of these presents, or a majority of them, in Special

meeting assembled as aforesaid, to refer every or any such matter, or difference, disagreement, or dispute, to the arbitration and decision of two indifferent persons, one to be chosen by the said Trustees for the time being, or a majority of them, and the other by the other party or parties in difference, or disagreement, and the award to be made by the said arbitrators, under their hands, or hands and seals, under such restrictions and conditions, as to time, and other circumstances, as shall have been previously agreed upon in writing, by the said Trustees, for the time being, or a majority of them, and the other party or parties in difference or disagreement, or the award of their umpire to be appointed by the said arbitrators (subject to such restrictions and conditions as aforesaid) under his hand, or hand and seal, shall be binding and conclusive, upon all parties, and the same may, if thought necessary, or expedient, be made a rule of any of His Majesty's Courts of Record.

VII

THE FIRST FOUR VOLUMES OF WESLEY'S SERMONS

The Case

In the 'Model Deed,' on the trusts of which nearly all Wesleyan Methodist Chapels are now settled the following clause appears :

'Provided always that no person or persons whomsoever shall at any time hereafter be permitted to preach or expound God's Holy Word or perform any of the usual acts of Religious Worship . . . in the said Chapel . . . who shall maintain promulgate or teach any doctrine or practice contrary to what is contained in certain Notes on the New Testament commonly reputed to be the Notes of the said John Wesley and in the First Four Volumes of Sermons commonly reputed to be written and published by him.'

A question has arisen as to the volumes specified in the phrase 'the First Four Volumes of Sermons,' and the Wesleyan Methodist Conference wishes to obtain 'a clear determination of the phrase,' and to know definitely the number of sermons contained in the first four volumes 'written and published' by John Wesley, mentioned in the proviso of the Chapel Model Deed.

In the earliest 'Model Deed' recommended by the Conference as the form on which the Methodist Preaching Houses should be settled a clause appears which provides that the persons appointed to the 'Houses' shall preach 'no other doctrine than is contained in Mr. Wesley's Notes upon the New Testament and four volumes of Sermons.' This deed was printed in 1763 in a pamphlet compiled by John Wesley and known as the *Large Minutes*. Wesley published subsequent editions of the *Large Minutes* in 1770, 1772, 1780, and 1789. In each of these editions a form of a 'Model Deed' is printed, and in each the proviso concerning doctrine stands exactly as it did in the form of deed

published in 1763. In 1788, although, as it is said, 'the Conference plan' for the settlement of Preaching Houses had been printed in many editions of the *Large Minutes*, yet, at the desire of the Conference, it was re-published in the ordinary *Minutes* of the Conference for that year. In this reprint the proviso concerning the Sermons is unaltered. In 1797, six years after the death of Wesley, the Conference issued an important document. It was subsequently recognized, in 1835, as 'the Code of Laws of Methodism,' by Lord Lyndhurst in the Chancery suit of *Warren v. Burton*. In the 'Code' a form of 'Model Deed' is printed. The proviso there appears in a slightly altered form—'Provided that the persons so appointed preach no other doctrines than are contained in Mr. Wesley's Notes upon the New Testament and his four volumes of Sermons by him published.'

Throughout Wesley's life, and immediately after his death, the Methodist Chapels settled on the 'Model Deed' were subject to the proviso which originally appeared in the deed printed in the *Large Minutes* of 1763.

The first question which arises is as to the identification of the 'four volumes of Sermons' mentioned in the model form of deed of 1763. At that time there were in existence four volumes of Sermons which Wesley had published at intervals: the first in 1746, the second in 1748, the third in 1750, and the fourth in 1760. The first, second, and third volumes contain thirty-six sermons, the fourth seven sermons, making a total of forty-three sermons. In the fourth volume together with the seven sermons the following tracts appear: 'Advice to the people called Methodists with regard to Dress,' 'The Duties of Husbands and Wives,' 'Directions to Children,' 'Directions to Servants,' 'Thoughts on Christian Perfection,' and 'Christian Instructions extracted from a late French Author.' With the exception of the 'Advice on Dress' and 'Thoughts on Christian Perfection' these tracts are either abridged or translated by Wesley from other authors, that is, they were 'published' but not all 'written' by him. The 'Sermons' have their separate title page: 'Sermons on Several Occasions. By John Wesley, M.A.' They occupy 163 pages and each is prefaced by a page on which the subject of the sermon is printed, as for instance, 'Original Sin. A Sermon on Genesis vi. 5.' None of the tracts is designated a 'sermon.'

Dr. George Osborn, in his *Outlines of Wesleyan Bibliography*, writing of the fourth volume published in 1760, says: 'Although so small a portion of this volume consisted of sermons it was numbered and sold as a fourth volume of Wesley's Sermons' (*Bibliography*, p. 36). Wesley himself considered it a fourth volume of his Sermons. In his Journal, under date October 1, 1759, he writes: 'All my leisure time during my stay at Bristol I employed in finishing the fourth volume of Discourses; probably the last I shall publish' (*Standard Journal*, vol. iv., p. 355). It is clear that the 'four volumes of Sermons' mentioned in the Deed of 1763 must have been those published in 1746, 1748, 1750, and 1760, because there were no other volumes of Wesley's Sermons at that time in existence. First editions of these Sermons, borrowed from the library of Didsbury College, are sent to Counsel with this Case. In forwarding them it is necessary to say that in an undated copy of a second edition of the volume published in 1750, *i.e.* the third volume, an additional sermon entitled 'Wandering Thoughts' is included.

No question as to the books referred to in the phrase the 'four volumes of Sermons' which appears in the 'Model Deeds' printed in 1763 and 1770 would have arisen had not Wesley determined to publish his prose *Works* in a collected form. The first four of the thirty-two volumes of his *Works* were issued in 1771. They contained the forty-three sermons printed in the first edition and ten additional sermons. The additional sermons are as follows:

1. The Witness of the Spirit, Discourse II.
2. Sin in Believers.
3. Repentance of Believers.
4. The Great Assize.
5. The Lord our Righteousness.
6. Wandering Thoughts.
7. The Scripture way of Salvation.
8. The Good Steward.
9. The Reformation of Manners.
10. On the Death of Mr. Whitefield.

The fourth volume of the *Works* also contains the tracts 'Advice with regard to Dress,' 'The Duties of Husbands and Wives,' 'Directions to Children,' 'Directions to Servants,' and the beginning of 'An Extract from Mr. Law's Treatise on Chris-

tian Perfection' which is continued in the fifth volume. The 'Thoughts on Christian Perfection' and the 'Christian Instructions extracted from a late French Author' are omitted from the fourth volume of the *Works*.

Wesley's design in publishing his *Works* is stated in his Preface. He states that it had been his desire to print in one collection all that he had before published in several tracts; to methodize his publications, placing those together which were on similar subjects and in such order that one might illustrate another. The first four volumes of the *Works* illustrate this method. He alters the order of the 'Discourses' published in the original edition of the four volumes of Sermons, he inserts the discourse on 'Wandering Thoughts' and nine others which had been published in separate form in 1758, 1765, 1767, 1768, and 1770. In the first four volumes of the *Works* there are fifty-three sermons.

In 1787-8 Wesley issued an edition of his Sermons in eight volumes. This was the last edition he published. The first four volumes are a reprint of the original volumes published in 1746, 1748, 1750, and 1760, the only difference being the inclusion of the sermon on 'Wandering Thoughts.' The order of the 'Discourses,' which had been disturbed in the first four volumes of the *Works*, is restored; the tracts stand as they did in the 1760 volume; and nine of the sermons added in 1771 are omitted. These volumes, published in 1787-8, are entitled '*Sermons on Several Occasions in Four Volumes*, by John Wesley, M.A., etc., the fourth edition.' Uniform with these volumes are four others, entitled '*Sermons on Several Occasions*, by John Wesley, M.A., etc.' The last four volumes contain sermons selected from the *Arminian Magazine*, which was commenced in 1778. It should be noted that the discourse on 'The Lord our Righteousness,' which appears in the first four volumes of the *Works*, is put into the fifth volume of the series of 1787-8.

There can be no doubt that the last edition of the 'four volumes of Sermons' published by Wesley is a reproduction of the first edition with the addition of one sermon, making the number of 'Discourses' forty-four. The Editor of the third edition of Wesley's *Works*, who is principally responsible for the statement that the reference in the proviso of the Chapel Model Deed is to the sermons contained in the first four volumes of *Works* pub-

lished in 1771, admits the fact of such reproduction. He explains it by saying, 'It is worthy of remark, that when Mr. Wesley published a uniform edition of his Sermons in eight volumes in 1787 and 1788, by some unaccountable inadvertency a copy of an early edition of the doctrinal sermons was placed before the printer.' Whatever ground there may have been for the theory of 'inadvertency' it is evident that Wesley was satisfied with 'the eight volumes of Sermons.' In his will, dated February 25, 1789, he left, 'As a little token of his love,' a copy of 'the eight volumes of Sermons' to each of those travelling preachers who remained in the Connexion six months after his (Wesley's) decease. It may also be mentioned that in 1799 the Conference resolved that all preachers in 'full connexion' who had not received 'the eight volumes of Sermons' should have them (*Minutes of Conference*, vol. ii., p. 22). From 1787-8 onward the 'eight volumes of Sermons' were well known to the Conference.

Wesley died in 1791, and soon after his death the phrase the 'four volumes of Sermons,' which had appeared in the trust deeds since 1763, began to be altered, first in ordinary speech and then in legal documents.

Dr. Osborn in writing of 'the four volumes of Sermons' says, 'When other sermons, which had been published in the *Arminian Magazine*, were collected into another four volumes, the phrase used in the trust deeds was necessarily altered to "the first four volumes"' (*Bibliography*, p. 36). Several illustrations of the change may be given. In 1801 Joseph Benson, in his *Apology for the People called Methodists*, speaks of the 'first four volumes of Wesley's Sermons,' which were published with the expressed design of 'submitting the Methodist doctrine to the consideration of mankind.' Benson says that the first volume of Sermons was published in the year 1747, which was a mistake for 1746 (p. 223). In 1810 the phrase 'the first four volumes of Sermons published by the late John Wesley' occurs in the clause concerning doctrines in the trust deed of the Chapel at Lewes in Sussex. In the same year (1810) Crowther, in his *Methodist Manual*, says of Wesley, 'His first four volumes of Sermons, united with his Notes on the New Testament, might be properly termed the test of the doctrines among the Methodists' (p. 58). In 1817 an edition of the *Large Minutes* was published to which are appended two forms of trust deeds for the settlement of

Methodist Chapels. Each contains the clause ' Provided always that the person or persons to be appointed by the Conference as aforesaid shall preach no other doctrines than those which are contained in certain Notes upon the New Testament and the first four volumes of Sermons published by the late Mr. John Wesley ' (pp. 63, 75). In 1825 the Conference passed a regulation concerning the reading of ' Preachers received on trial.' Before being examined at the District Meeting each candidate had to read with care ' Our standard doctrinal works, viz. : Mr. Wesley's Notes on the New Testament and his first four volumes of Sermons ' (*Minutes of Conference*, vol. vi., pp. 64, 65). When the Conference, in 1829, appointed a Committee to devise a more efficient mode for the settlement of Methodist Chapels, and the work of the Committee resulted in the preparation of the present ' Model Deed ' in 1832, the phrase, ' the first four volumes of Sermons,' which appears in the proviso respecting doctrines in that deed, was well established.

In the opinion of some the phrase ' the first four volumes of Wesley's Sermons ' is not clear. Does it indicate the four volumes of the Sermons that are first in order of time, that is the first edition of those published in 1746, 1748, 1750, and 1760 ; or does it mean the first four volumes of Wesley's eight-volumed edition published in 1787-8 ? If the former, should the sermon on ' Wandering Thoughts ' be included ? It was certainly published in the undated second edition of the 1750 volume, and it appeared before the fourth volume was written. The original title-page, ' Sermons on Several Occasions in Three Volumes,' is used in the second edition of the 1750 volume, and the book was sold at ' the New Room ' in Bristol and at ' the Foundery ' in London. This undated second edition of Vol. III. could not have been issued without Wesley's knowledge, and it was undoubtedly in existence when the proviso concerning doctrines first appeared in the deed of 1763. If the phrase the ' first four volumes of Sermons ' indicates the first four volumes of the 1787-8 edition the matter is simplified, for in the third volume of that edition the sermon on ' Wandering Thoughts ' appears and stands in point of order in the place assigned to it in the second undated edition. With the addition of this sermon the contents of the original four volumes of the Sermons and of the first four volumes of the Sermons published in 1787-8 are the same.

The question, however, has been seriously complicated by the action of the Editor of the third edition of Wesley's *Works*. Before the new edition of the *Works* was issued, he prepared, in 1825, an edition of Wesley's Sermons in two volumes. In the 'Advertisement' it is said: 'In the first volume are comprised all the Sermons that were published in four volumes in the duo-decimo size in the year 1771, to which reference is made in the trust deeds of the Methodist Chapels as containing, with Mr. Wesley's Explanatory Notes upon the New Testament, the standard doctrines of the religious Connexion of which that eminent man was the Founder.' The Conference in 1825 thanked the Connexional Editor 'for his new and correct edition of Mr. Wesley's Sermons lately published.'

During the years 1829-31, the third edition of Wesley's *Works* was issued. In its preface, written in 1831, the following paragraph appears:

Speaking of Wesley's edition of his *Works*, published in 1771-4, the Editor says:

'Mr. Wesley's edition of his own *Works* was rendered particularly valuable by an addition that was made to those of his Sermons to which a legal importance was afterwards attached. These Sermons were published at different times and were originally comprised in three duodecimo volumes. The first bears the date of 1746, the second of 1748, and the third of 1750. A fourth was added in the year 1760 containing also some other practical tracts partly original and partly selected, and it was not numbered as connected with the former series. To these Sermons ten others were now added. Some of them had been published as separate pamphlets, having been published on particular occasions. The rest appear to have been written for the express purpose of giving a more complete view of the author's doctrinal system. The entire series is inserted in the first four volumes of the *Works* in the edition of 1771-4, and to these Sermons it is that reference is made in the trust deeds of the Methodist Chapels, as embodying, with his Notes on the New Testament, the doctrines of the Connexion.' (*The Works of the Rev. John Wesley*, vol. i., Preface, p. vii., Third Edition.)

When the Sermons were published in the fifth and sixth volumes of the new edition of Wesley's *Works*, the following notice was prefixed: 'Sermons on Several Occasions. First

Series. Consisting of fifty-three discourses published in four volumes in the year 1771, and to which reference is made in the trust deeds of the Methodist Chapels as constituting, with Mr. Wesley's Notes on the New Testament, the standard doctrines of the Methodist Connexion.'

If the statement of the Editor of the Third Edition of Wesley's *Works* is to be accepted, then the number of the 'Standard' Sermons is not forty-three or forty-four, but fifty-three. The statement made a deep impression.

Although the phrase 'the fifty-three Sermons' has come into popular use, the Conference, up to the present, has not committed itself to a declaration concerning the number of 'discourses' contained in 'the first four volumes of Sermons.' The thanks of the Conference of 1825 to the Editor of the two-volume edition of the Sermons for his new 'and correct edition' may be considered to imply an approval of his theory concerning the fifty-three Sermons, but that is open to question. It is true that the number 'fifty-three' was inserted in 1895 in a regulation concerning the examination of Local Preachers passed by the Conference in 1876, but the Conference in 1913 cancelled the words specifying the number. The regulation now stands: 'No candidate shall be fully admitted as a Local Preacher until he has read the first four volumes of John Wesley's Sermons and his Notes on the New Testament' (*Minutes of Conference*, 1913, p. 356).

It seems possible that the Connexional Editor overlooked the distinction between 'Sermons' and 'Works.' The expression 'first four volumes of Sermons' seems to point to 'Sermons' rather than 'Works,' and is more consistent with the four volumes of Sermons published in 1746-60, or the first four volumes of Sermons published in 1787-8, than with the first four volumes of the *Works* published in 1771.

An alteration made in the 'Model Deed' form of 1832 requires to be noted. There the words 'commonly reputed to be' are introduced both in regard to the Notes on the New Testament and in regard to the Sermons. The natural explanation of the use of those new words is that they were suggested by a careful conveyancer with the view of anticipating the difficulty there might be, after the lapse of many years, in proving what particular Notes or volumes of Sermons were written and published by Wesley.

But some may argue that the word 'reputed' must be interpreted by reference to the approval by the Conference in 1825 of the Editor's two-volume edition of the Sermons published in that year. This explanation, however, would not account for the use of the word 'reputed' in reference to the Notes on the New Testament.

In the course of the discussion on the meaning of phrase 'the first four volumes' of Wesley's Sermons, a question has recently been raised concerning the 'tracts' which are bound up with the fourth volume of 'Discourses' published by Wesley in 1760, and which also appear in the fourth volume of the 1787-8 edition. It has been suggested that the presence of these 'tracts' in the fourth volume gives them a value as standards of Methodist doctrine and practice equal to that possessed by the Sermons, and that the 'tracts' must be considered as an integral part of 'the first four volumes of Sermons.' On the other hand it has been pointed out that these 'tracts' differ from the 'Sermons' not only in form but in their authorship and character, and that they were apparently put into the book to 'make up' the volume.

The Questions

The opinion of Counsel is requested on the following points:

1. What is the meaning of the phrase: 'The first four volumes of John Wesley's Sermons commonly reputed to be written and published by him?'
2. To which books does the phrase apply—the original volumes published in 1746, 1748, 1750, and 1760; the 'first four volumes' of Wesley's *Works* published in 1771; or 'the first four volumes' of the edition of the Sermons published in eight volumes in 1787-8?
3. As the original edition of the four volumes of Sermons contains forty-three sermons, the first four volumes of the *Works* fifty-three, and the first four volumes of the 1787-8 edition forty-four, the answer to the second question will carry with it Counsel's opinion concerning the number of sermons that constitute the 'Standard' of Methodist 'doctrine and practice.' If, however, Counsel's opinion is in favour of the original edition containing forty-three sermons, he is requested to say whether the sermon on 'Wandering Thoughts,' which appears in the undated second edition of the original volume of 1750, must be included in the

'four volumes of Sermons' referred to in the proviso contained in 'Model Deeds' from 1763 onward.

4. Are the 'tracts' which appear in the fourth volume of the Sermons to be considered an integral part of the 'Standard' of Methodist doctrine and practice? The attention of Counsel is directed to the fact that the 'tracts' appended to the 'Sermons' in the fourth volume of Wesley's *Works*, 1771 edition, differ in number and character from those contained in the original and in the 1787-8 editions of the Sermons.

The Opinion

The First Four Volumes of Wesley's Sermons

In the instructions laid before me in this matter the relevant facts are so clearly stated as to render comparatively simple the task of answering the questions proposed.

1 and 2. To arrive at the meaning of the phrase 'The first four volumes of Sermons written and published by John Wesley,' that phrase must be considered from both a grammatical and a historical point of view. Grammatically, the words are not absolutely clear; but, in my opinion, it is reasonably plain that they mean 'the first four volumes, part of a greater number of volumes of Sermons written and published by John Wesley,' and that they do not mean either (i) 'the four volumes of Sermons which were the first to be written and published by John Wesley,' or (ii) 'the first four volumes part of a great number of John Wesley's *Works* which first four volumes in fact contain sermons.' The words 'written and published by John Wesley' should, in my view, be read as descriptive of 'sermons.' Of the sermons written by John Wesley and published in several volumes, the first four volumes in numerical order are in my opinion indicated.

I have omitted for the sake of brevity the words 'commonly reputed to be,' for these words may be regarded as merely the cautious phrase of a skilled conveyancer, and intended to substitute common reputation that the sermons were written and published by John Wesley for strict proof of these facts.

If the phrase is considered historically there cannot, I think, be any real doubt as to its meaning. From 1787-8, the date when the edition of John Wesley's Sermons in eight volumes was

first published, the phrase 'the first four volumes of Sermons' would have a natural and obvious meaning. The series of eight volumes of Sermons was, as appears from John Wesley's Will, regarded by him as the standard edition; it is easily divisible into two parts; the first four volumes represent, with the addition of the sermon on 'Wandering Thoughts,' the four original volumes published in 1746, 1748, 1750, and 1760; the remaining four volumes contain sermons selected from the *Arminian Magazine*; the whole series was officially known as the eight volumes of Sermons, as sufficiently appears from the *Minutes* of the Conference of 1799, vol. ii., p. 22. Naturally, then, if in any legal document it was desired to refer to the first four volumes of that official series, they would be referred to as 'the first four volumes of Sermons published by John Wesley.' That such was, in fact, the course followed, appears from the form of the trust deeds in the 1817 edition of the *Large Minutes*, and the regulations as to the reading of 'Preachers received on trial' of the 1825 Conference. See the *Minutes*, vol. vi., pp. 64 and 65. As against this view must be set the opinion expressed by the editor of the third edition of John Wesley's *Works* in 1831, but with all respect to his learning his remarks in the preface are in my opinion based on a misconception of the exact interpretation of the phrase 'the first four volumes of Sermons.' He appears to consider that the phrase is equivalent to 'the first four volumes of the collected *Works*,' published in thirty-two volumes, which volumes, in fact, contain or consist of sermons. Merely from the point of view of the language I do not regard this as a possible construction, and when the phrase in the Model Deed of 1832 is viewed in the light of the usage current at that date, and in that light it should be viewed, it becomes in my opinion even clearer that the reference is to the four volumes of Sermons forming part of the well-known edition of eight volumes of Sermons, and not to the four volumes of Sermons forming part of the edition of the collected *Works*.

In my view, then, to sum up, the phrase in the Model Deed applies to the first four volumes of Wesley's Sermons published in eight volumes in 1787-8.

3. If I am right in my answers to questions 1 and 2, it follows that the total number of Sermons constituting the standard of Methodist doctrine and practice is forty-four, and in that number is included the sermon on 'Wandering Thoughts.'

4. In my opinion the tracts appearing at the end of the fourth volume of the Sermons do not form an integral part of Methodist doctrine and practice, and are not covered by the phrase 'the first four volumes of Sermons.' Those words are compendious in form. As naturally expanded they would read 'the sermons contained in the first four volumes of Sermons,' and though tracts which are not sermons at all may be included in one of the volumes which contains sermons and is published as part of the Sermons, those tracts cannot in my opinion be regarded as sermons, though they are included in the covers of the book. The volume, *qua* volume of Sermons, is complete without the tracts, and in my opinion only the sermons in the volume are within the ambit of the phrase in the Model Deed.

OWEN THOMPSON.

4 New Court, Lincoln's Inn.

February 2, 1914.

VIII
RULES AND REGULATIONS
OF THE
Itinerant Methodist Preachers'
Annuitant Society

N.B.—The Rules have been revised in accordance with Resolutions passed up to 1909. The Annuitant Society is not a Connexional Institution.

Preamble

Certain Itinerant Preachers of the people called Methodists in the Connexion established by the late Reverend John Wesley, having agreed to form a Benefit Society to be known by the name of 'The Itinerant Methodist Preachers' Annuitant Society,' for the relief of Supernumerary Preachers among themselves, and of the Widows of those who had died, or should die, in connexion with the Conference of the above-named people; and the said Preachers having formed a set of Rules and Regulations for the above purpose, at their Annual Conference, held in Bristol, in the year 1798;—and having altered some of those Rules and Regulations at their Annual Conference, held in Leeds, in the year 1837, in Bradford, Yorkshire, in the year 1864, and also at certain of their Annual Meetings held at different places since that time;—and having agreed to revise, alter, and amend the Rules made aforesaid; Do, in this their Annual Meeting, held in Burslem, Staffordshire, in this present year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred, now make and adopt the following Rules and Regulations, in the place of the aforesaid Rules and Regulations; and therefore unanimously Resolve,—

Title

I. That this Society shall continue to be called, 'THE ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS' ANNUITANT SOCIETY.'¹

¹ This Institution is the same which is often called amongst the Methodists 'The Preachers' Fund.'

Members

II. Every Minister who is now, or who shall be hereafter received into connexion with the Wesleyan Methodist Conference, may become a Member of the Society, if approved by a majority of the Members present at the Annual Meeting.

When application for admission into the Society has been deferred five years or more after probation, a medical certificate as to health shall be required.

After probation compound interest at the rate of four per cent. per annum shall be charged on the amount due when entrance into the Society is delayed.

Probationers' Subscriptions

III. The annual subscription for Preachers on Trial, engaged in the Home Work, in European countries, and in Egypt, shall be five guineas for each of the four years of probation.

For those appointed elsewhere an extra premium shall be charged for the second, third, and fourth years of probation as follows :—

In South Africa	£2 2 0
In India, China, and West Indies	3 3 0
In West Africa	6 6 0

If any Probationer shall neglect to pay the annual subscription year by year, he shall pay simple interest at the rate of five per cent. per annum on the amount due on each successive year. If during his probation he should be discontinued by the Conference, or of his own accord withdraw from the probation for the Wesleyan Methodist ministry, or if at the close of his probation he should not for any reason be admitted into full connexion with the Conference, or should not be received into membership with this Society, the amount of subscriptions paid by him shall be returned without interest.

Members' Subscriptions

The annual subscription of Members appointed to the Home Work, Europe, and Egypt, shall be six pounds ; and if appointed elsewhere an extra premium shall be charged, viz. :

South Africa	£2 2 0
India, China, and West Indies	3 3 0
West Africa	6 6 0

N.B.—The extra premium in the case of Ministers on the Mission Field is paid by the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society.

Fines and Cessation of Membership

Subscriptions are payable at the Annual Meeting of the Conference, and in any event *must* be paid on or before the thirty-first day of August in each year. Such subscriptions are in respect of the year then completed. Any Member neglecting to pay his subscription within the time named shall be fined ten shillings for each year of non-payment, the fines to be added to the common stock. But if his subscription shall be four years in arrears, he shall be considered as having excluded himself, and his membership shall cease at the Conference next ensuing, and any moneys he shall have paid into the Society shall be forfeited.

When a Member is declared a Supernumerary, or dies in active service leaving a widow in respect of whom the Marriage Premium has been paid, the subscription payable at the Conference when he is declared a Supernumerary or when his death is formally reported must be paid in order to secure the payment of the instalment of the Annuity then due to him or to his widow as the case may be.

Property in the Book-Room

IV. As the Methodist Ministers have a property in books in their Book-Room, City Road, London, bequeathed to them by the Rev. John Wesley, which property has been considerably increased by the subscriptions of the Ministers and by other means, the said Ministers have agreed that such sums as the Conference may from time to time direct shall be paid annually by the Steward of the Book-Room, out of the profits thereof, to the Treasurers of this Society, to be applied according to the Rules and Regulations thereof.

Annuitants

V. No Member of this Society shall have any claim upon its funds as an Annuitant, or be considered as a Supernumerary, unless he be declared by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference incapable of fulfilling the duties of an Itinerant Methodist Minister.

Supernumeraryship

VI. Every Member of this Society, who, being incapable of fulfilling the duties of an Itinerant Methodist Minister, is considered and declared by the Conference a Supernumerary, shall receive an annuity according to the number of years he has been a Wesleyan Methodist Minister, beginning with the fifth year and continuing to the sixtieth year of his ministry, so that there shall be a proportionate increase of annuity for each and every year of ministerial service in which the Annuitant may have been engaged up to the sixtieth year of his ministry, and these payments shall be made according to the following graduated scale :

Years of Travelling.	Graduated Scale of Annuities.			Years of Travelling.	Graduated Scale of Annuities.		
5	£6	1	0	33	£24	15	0
6	6	6	6	34	25	17	0
7	6	12	0	35	26	19	0
8	7	3	0	36	28	1	0
9	7	14	0	37	29	3	0
10	8	5	0	38	30	5	0
11	8	16	0	39	31	7	0
12	9	7	0	40	32	9	0
13	9	18	0	41	33	11	0
14	10	9	0	42	34	13	0
15	11	0	0	43	35	15	0
16	11	11	0	44	36	17	0
17	12	2	0	45	37	19	0
18	12	13	0	46	39	1	0
19	13	15	0	47	40	3	0
20	14	17	0	48	41	16	0
21	15	8	0	49	43	9	0
22	16	10	0	50	45	2	0
23	17	1	0	51	46	15	0
24	17	12	0	52	48	5	0
25	18	14	0	53	49	15	0
26	19	5	0	54	51	5	0
27	20	7	0	55	52	15	0
28	20	18	0	56	54	5	0
29	21	9	0	57	55	15	0
30	22	0	0	58	57	5	0
31	22	11	0	59	58	15	0
32	23	13	0	60	60	5	0

N.B.—All the years of active service, including those of Probation, are reckoned in the Annuity.

The payments shall be made in advance in half-yearly instalments, one as on the 10th day of August and the other as on the 10th day of February. The first half-yearly payment shall be made as on the 10th day of August in the year in which the said Member is declared a Supernumerary and incapable of performing the duties of a Wesleyan Methodist Minister as aforesaid provided that the subscription for the year ending on the 31st of that month has been paid. The Annuity shall continue so long as he remains a Supernumerary, the payments ceasing with the last half-yearly payment before the date of his death or with the last half-yearly payment before the date of the Annual Conference by which he is again appointed to the work of a Circuit, as the case may be.

Annuitants residing Abroad

VII. Any Annuitant of this Society residing in a foreign country, in order to receive the annuity due, shall, if required to do so, send to the Steward half-yearly, dated the tenth day of February and the first day of August respectively, a certificate of his or her being still alive and of continued right to the annuity; such certificate to be signed by a Minister of the Methodist Church where such Annuitant may reside; or, in the case of there being no Methodist Church in the place, by a Minister of some other Church or by a Magistrate.

Arrears of Annuity

VIII. An Annuitant declining to receive his or her annuity for any number of years shall not by so doing forfeit all claim to the annuity in future, but may again claim payment of the annuity; nevertheless the claimant shall not be entitled to any arrears for the year or years voluntarily relinquished.

Suspended and Resumed Claims

IX. If a Minister who has been a Supernumerary and in consequence has become a claimant on the funds of the Society, according to Rule 6, be again appointed by the Conference to the work of a Circuit, he shall cease to be an Annuitant; and if he be

again declared a Supernumerary and incapable of fulfilling the duties of a Wesleyan Methodist Minister, his claim for his Annuity shall be regulated according to the years he has actually been in Circuit work, subject to the provisions and regulations already mentioned.

Supernumerary Entering into Business

X. Should any Supernumerary, being a claimant on the funds of this Society, desire to go into business, or should any Widow-claimant actually enter into business, the Officers of the Society are authorized and required, for the mutual benefit of both parties, to endeavour to make arrangements for the relinquishment of all future claims on the part of such Supernumerary or Widow, by the payment of one sum.

Exclusion and Voluntary Retirement from the Ministry

XI. If any Member of this Society be expelled from connexion with the Conference, the Officers shall return to the Member so expelled the full amount of subscriptions and marriage premium which he has paid into the fund, without interest, deducting, however, all amounts which he had at any period received as a Supernumerary. If any Member shall voluntarily retire from the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry, three-fourths of the amount he has paid into the Society, less any sum or sums he has received as a Supernumerary, shall be returned to him without interest, on application for such return.

Widow Claimants

XII. On the decease of a Member leaving a Widow duly entered on the books of the Society as a beneficiary according to the terms hereafter specified, such Widow shall receive an annuity according to the number of years her husband has been a Member of the Society, the annual subscriptions being fully paid; or, if he be a Supernumerary at the time of his decease, according to the number of years he has been engaged in the full work of the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry, as stated in the above scale, subject to a reduction of one-eighth of the amount in each case. And this annuity, so reduced, shall be paid as long as such Widow continues unmarried, but shall cease immediately upon her remarriage.

The payments shall be made in advance in half-yearly instalments, one as on the 10th day of August and the other as on the 10th day of February. The first half-yearly payment, in the case of the widow of a Member engaged at the time of his death in the full work of the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry, shall be made as on the 10th day of August in the year in which the death of the Member has been formally reported to Conference, providing that the subscription for the year ending on the 31st of that month has been paid ; and, in the case of the widow of a Supernumerary, shall be made as on the 10th day of August or as on the 10th day of February, whichever next follows the date of death of the Supernumerary ; and in either case the Annuity shall cease with the last half-yearly payment before the date of the death or remarriage of the widow.

Widows not entitled unless Marriage Premium Paid

XIII. In the event of the death of a Member not having paid the marriage premium, his Widow shall not be entitled to any Annuity from the Funds of the Society.

Full and Complete Years for Widows

XIV. If any Member of the Society shall have entered upon his annual appointment in a Circuit in any given year, that year shall be accounted to his Widow as a complete year in settling the scale or rate of annuity applicable to her case ; provided that the subscription of the deceased Member be paid for that year.

Supernumerary Marrying

XV. No woman who shall marry a Member of this Society after he has been declared by the Conference a Supernumerary, and incapable of performing the duties of a Methodist Minister, shall, after his decease, receive any benefit from this Society, unless she had previously been an Annuitant, in which case her former Annuity shall revive. But this rule shall not apply to Ministers who have been allowed by the Conference to rest for one year.

Marriage Premiums

XVI. The following shall be the Scale of Marriage Premiums:

For a First Marriage, Five Guineas, with an additional sum of One Guinea for each year the wife is younger than her husband. For a Second Marriage, Ten Guineas; and for a Third Marriage, Fifteen Guineas; with the following additional sums in both second and third marriages for each year the wife is younger than her husband:—

Member's Age.	Additional Premium for each year the wife is younger than her husband.
Up to 35 inclusive	Two-and-a-half Guineas.
36 to 40 ,,	Three Guineas.
41 to 50 ,,	Four Guineas.
51 to 60 ,,	Five Guineas.

The disparity in age not to exceed twenty years.

In all cases the above premiums shall entitle the Widow to full annuities according to scale.

The Marriage premium cannot be received in the case of a Member whose subscription is in arrear.

(N.B.—The foregoing regulations concerning marriages are not intended to bear upon marriages contracted previously to August, 1858, nor upon any marriage with a Widow annuitant.)

When Wife not Eligible for Entry

XVII. No Member marrying after attaining the age of sixty years shall be entitled to enter his wife on the books of the Society as a beneficiary.

Interest on Delayed Marriage Premiums

XVIII. All Marriage premiums, whether of Ministers in the Home or Foreign Work, not paid within twelve months after the date of marriage, shall be charged with four per cent. per annum simple interest on the amount due.

Certificate of Health

XIX. A Medical Certificate of a Member's good health must be furnished in all cases of second and third marriages and in the

case of a first marriage where the payment of the Marriage premium is delayed beyond twelve months.

Form of Marriage Certificate

This is to Certify, *that the Sum of £*
has been paid by the Rev.
to the Treasurers of the ITINERANT METHODIST PREACHERS'
ANNUITANT SOCIETY, for the registration of the name of
his Wife, in order
to secure her a full reversionary interest in the Funds of the said
Society, according to the rules and usages thereof.

As WITNESS my hand this

day of

19

A. B.,
 Steward.

N.B.—This Certificate is to be presented when the Annuity is claimed.

Necessitous Orphan Children of Members

XX. In the case of a Member and his wife both dying and leaving necessitous children under the age of 16 years (the wife having been duly entered on the books of the Society as a beneficiary), the annuity to which the wife would have been entitled, had she survived, may be granted to such children in the proportion of one-fourth to each child, not exceeding four children in all, beginning with the youngest and taking the next in order of years ; no child to receive more than one-fourth of the annuity.

The amount shall be paid half-yearly in advance, at the time of the ordinary annuities, and each child's share may be continued until the child is sixteen years of age.

This rule shall apply only to children born after the father has entered the Wesleyan Methodist Ministry.

Managing Officers of the Society

XXI. Four Treasurers, with a Steward, a Secretary, and a Registrar, shall be appointed. The moneys belonging to this Society shall be invested in the names of the Treasurers. The Steward shall receive marriage premiums and pay the annuities ; the Secretary shall receive the annual subscriptions ; the Registrar

shall keep a ledger account of each Member. The Officers of the Society shall keep its accounts and records. The President of the Conference, being a Member of the Society, shall, *ex officio*, be the Chairman of the Officers' Meeting. The books of the Society shall be open for the inspection of any Member at all convenient times.

Auditors

XXII. Three Auditors, one of whom shall be a Chartered Accountant, shall be appointed annually, who shall audit all the accounts of the Society before they are presented to the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting

XXIII. The Annual Meeting shall be held at the most convenient time during the Conference, the accounts shall then be publicly read over and considered, and everything relating to the management of the Society shall be done by a majority of the Members then present.

Settlement of Disputes

XXIV. Should any dispute arise relative to the business of the Society which cannot be settled by the Officers, it shall be referred to a Committee, to be appointed at the Annual Meeting; and the judgement of the majority shall be decisive, unless appealed against at the next Annual Meeting, provided the said judgement be not contrary to anything in the existing rules of the Society.

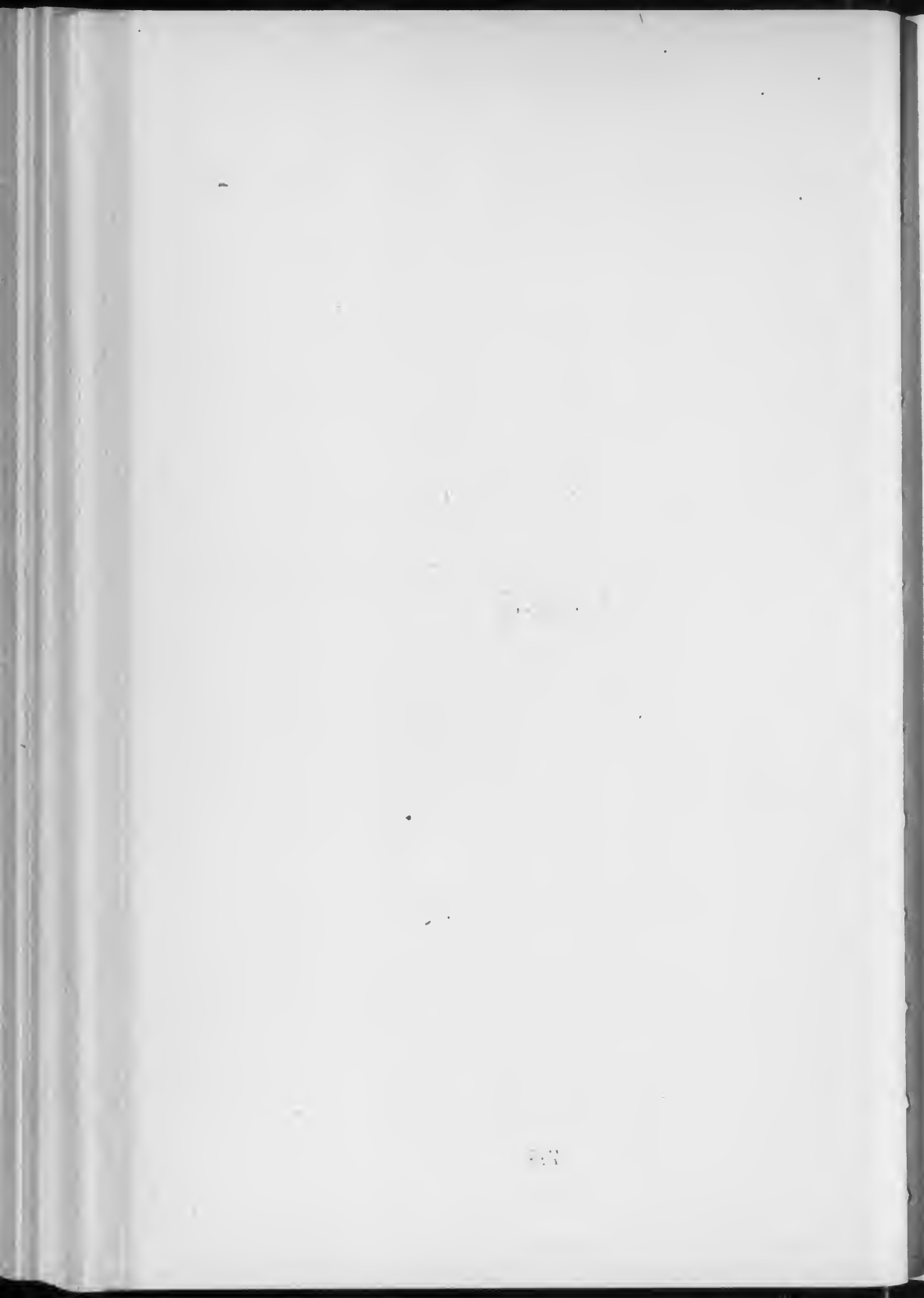
Dissolving the Society

XXV. Provided that if at any time this Society shall be so diminished as not to be able to answer all the purposes now intended by these Rules and Regulations, yet it shall not be lawful for the Members, by any Rule, Order, or Regulation at any General Meeting or otherwise, to dissolve or determine the Society, so long as the intents and purposes declared by the Society, or any of them, remain to be carried into effect, without the consent and approbation of five-sixths of the then existing Members, to be testified under their hands in writing, individually and respectively.

SCALE OF ANNUITIES

SUPERNUMERARIES							W I D O W S						
Year of Travelling.		Amount per Annum.			Half-Yearly Payment.			One-Eighth less per Annum.			Half-Yearly Payment.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	
5	6	1	0	3	0	6	5	6	0	2	13	0	
6	6	6	6	3	3	3	5	10	8	2	15	4	
7	6	12	0	3	6	0	5	15	6	2	17	9	
8	7	3	0	3	11	6	6	5	4	3	2	8	
9	7	14	0	3	17	0	6	14	10	3	7	5	
10	8	5	0	4	2	6	7	4	6	3	12	3	
11	8	16	0	4	8	0	7	14	0	3	17	0	
12	9	7	0	4	13	6	8	3	8	4	1	10	
13	9	18	0	4	19	0	8	13	4	4	6	8	
14	10	9	0	5	4	6	9	3	0	4	11	6	
15	11	0	0	5	10	0	9	12	6	4	16	3	
16	11	11	0	5	15	6	10	2	2	5	1	1	
17	12	2	0	6	1	0	10	11	10	5	5	11	
18	12	13	0	6	6	6	11	1	6	5	10	9	
19	13	15	0	6	17	6	12	0	8	6	0	4	
20	14	17	0	7	8	6	12	19	2	6	9	7	
21	15	8	0	7	14	0	13	9	6	6	14	9	
22	16	10	0	8	5	0	14	8	10	7	4	5	
23	17	1	0	8	10	6	14	18	6	7	9	3	
24	17	12	0	8	16	0	15	8	0	7	14	0	
25	18	14	0	9	7	0	16	7	4	8	3	8	
26	19	5	0	9	12	6	16	17	0	8	8	6	
27	20	7	0	10	3	6	17	16	2	8	18	1	
28	20	18	0	10	9	0	18	5	10	9	2	11	
29	21	9	0	10	14	6	18	15	6	9	7	9	
30	22	0	0	11	0	0	19	5	0	9	12	6	
31	22	11	0	11	5	6	19	14	8	9	17	4	
32	23	13	0	11	16	6	20	14	0	10	7	0	
33	24	15	0	12	7	6	21	13	2	10	16	7	
34	25	17	0	12	18	6	22	12	6	11	6	3	
35	26	19	0	13	9	6	23	11	8	11	15	10	
36	28	1	0	14	0	6	24	11	0	12	5	6	
37	29	3	0	14	11	6	25	10	2	12	15	1	
38	30	5	0	15	2	6	26	9	6	13	4	9	
39	31	7	0	15	13	6	27	8	8	13	14	4	
40	32	9	0	16	4	6	28	8	0	14	4	0	
41	33	11	0	16	15	6	29	7	2	14	13	7	
42	34	13	0	17	6	6	30	6	6	15	3	3	
43	35	15	0	17	17	6	31	5	8	15	12	10	
44	36	17	0	18	8	6	32	5	0	16	2	6	
45	37	19	0	18	19	6	33	4	2	16	12	1	
46	39	1	0	19	10	6	34	3	6	17	1	9	
47	40	3	0	20	1	6	35	2	8	17	11	4	
48	41	16	0	20	18	0	36	11	6	18	5	9	
49	43	9	0	21	14	6	38	0	6	19	0	3	
50	45	2	0	22	11	0	39	9	4	19	14	8	
51	46	15	0	23	7	6	40	18	2	20	9	1	
52	48	5	0	24	2	6	42	4	6	21	2	3	
53	49	15	0	24	17	6	43	10	8	21	15	4	
54	51	5	0	25	12	6	44	17	0	22	8	6	
55	52	15	0	26	7	6	46	3	2	23	1	7	
56	54	5	0	27	2	6	47	9	6	23	14	9	
57	55	15	0	27	17	6	48	15	8	24	7	10	
58	57	5	0	28	12	6	50	2	0	25	1	0	
59	58	15	0	29	7	6	51	8	2	25	14	1	
60	60	5	0	30	2	6	52	14	6	26	7	3	

INDEX



INDEX

- Abbreviated Form of Liverpool Minutes**, 339, 357-365
- Abridgement of Summary** to be read by Candidates, 169, 170
- Abroad**, Local Preachers from, 522
Supernumeraries residing, 380
- Absentee Scholars**, Visitor of, 210
- Abstainers**, Roll of, 243
- Abstainers' League**, 243-245
Adult, 244
Young, 244
- Accommodation** in Chapels, Returns of, 118
- Account Books**, Stewards', 64
- Accounts**, Foreign Missionary, 187
Trust, 66, 719, 720. See *Chapel Model Deed*
- Accused Member**, Procedure in the case of an, 33-37
- Accused Minister**, Procedure in the case of an, 446
- Accused Trustee**, Procedure in the case of an, 39
- Acts of Conference Delegate** in Ireland, 653, 664
- Adaptations** of the Class Meeting, 18
- Additional Ministers** and District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, 383
- Additional Ministers**—*continued*.
and Home Mission Committee, 670
and the Conference, 547, 591, 670
Application for, 155, 156, 469
District Assessment for, 609
- Address**, Pastoral, 42, 63, 340, 631, 707
- Addresses** of Candidates for Ministry, 334
of Circuit Stewards, 187, 342
of Lay Members of Connexional Committees, 570
of Ministers, 548
of Representatives to District Synods, 173, 334
- Administration of Sacraments**, 47-51, 83, 85, 329, 681, 682, 684
- Admission** of European Ministers on Mission Stations, 411
of Excluded Ministers into Society, 26
of Members into Society, 24-26. See *Members*.
of Ministers into Full Connexion. See *Ministers*.
of Reporters to the Conference, 551
to Covenant Service, 53
to Lovefeasts, 52

Admission—*continued.*

- to Society Meetings, 42
- to the Conference Chapel, 550
- to the Lord's Supper, 49, 705
- to the Training Colleges, 239

Adult Bible Classes, 78, 472**Affiliated Conferences**, Ministers under, 641, 642, 648**Afflictions**, Grants for. See *Grants.***Aged Preachers**, 546, 635**Agenda**, Conference, 570, 582, 585

District Synod, 336

Agents, Lay, 159-162**Agitators**, 326
Agreement for Mission Chapels,
 Form of, 111, 163-164
 Memorandum of. See *Candidates.*
Allan Library, The, 615, 618**Allocation Committee**. See *Committee.***Allowances**, Ministers', 146. See *Ministers.*

- from Annuitant Society, 750, 751
- from Auxiliary Fund, 317
- Students', 293

Alteration, Amalgamation, and
 Division of Circuits, 174-177
Amusements and Trust Properties, 56-57**Anniversaries**, Chapel, 120

Foreign Missionary, 336, 337, 340

Home Missionary, 336, 341

Anniversary Hymns, 46**Annual**—

- Circuit Meeting of Class Leaders, 80-82
- Constitution, 80
- Business, 81-82
- Obligatory, 80, 186

Annual—*continued.*

District Synod. See *District Synods.*

Examination of Probationers. See *Probationers.*

Examination of Pupil Teachers, 511

Meeting of Connexional Fund Committee, 437, 594

Meeting of Sunday School Committee and Subscribers, 199-200, 332

Meeting of Sunday School Teachers, 200-201, 216, 332

Meeting of Temperance Society, 242

Meeting of Trustees, 119, 187, 332, 333, 719-724

Report of Day Schools, 238

Returns of Members, 330, 497

Returns of Members in Adult Bible Classes, 472

Returns of Members in Junior Society Classes, 60

Returns to the Conference, 63

United Trustees' Meeting, 110, 119, 187

Annuitant Society, 373-375, 379, 748-758
Annuities from Trust Funds, 122**Annuities** of Annuitant Society when due, 751-752
Appeal against sentence of
 Chairman of District in
 his capacity as Superintendent, 415

Appeal, District Synods Courts
 of Inquiry and, 443

Forfeiture of right of, 629

Appeal, right of—

by Excluded Members, 36, 190, 323, 516, 630, 669

Appeal—*continued.*

- by Foreign Missionaries, 522
- by Ministers, 515-518, 629, 637
- by officers of the Society, Stewards, Leaders, Local Preachers, 65, 69, 192, 193

Appeals and Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 141

- Time limit of, 40, 630
- to Annual District Synods, 36, 65, 69, 89, 190-193, 323, 516, 629
- to Conference, 36, 65, 69, 89, 190, 192, 323, 516, 517, 523, 629
- to Courts of Superior Jurisdiction in the Mission Field, 522
- to Minor District Synods, 36, 193, 325
- to Special Circuit Meeting, 189-193
- to Special District Synod, 325, 516-518
- to Special Local Preachers' Meeting, 88-89

Appendices, 657-758**Applications** for pecuniary assistance beyond limits of Circuit, 602

- to Charity Commissioners, 108, 113, 577

Appointment Acts, Trustees', 109-110

- of Auditors of Circuit Missionary Accounts, 181, 188
- of Auditors of Sunday School Accounts, 200
- of Auditors of Trust Accounts, 186, 720, 721
- of Chairmen of Districts, 444
- of Chapel Stewards, 64, 65, 66, 718
- of Chapel Treasurer, 718

Appointment—*continued.*

- of Circuit Missionary Committee, 180
 - of Circuit Missionary Secretary, 180
 - of Circuit Missionary Treasurer, 180
 - of Circuit Stewards, 65, 186
 - of Circuit Temperance Secretaries, 185, 246-247
 - of Class Leaders, 67, 687
 - of Delegate in Ireland, 650
 - of Departmental Ministers, 392-396
 - of District Financial Secretaries, 448, 624
 - of Home and Foreign Missionary Deputations, 502
 - of Home Missionary Ministers, 383
 - of Junior Society Class Leaders, 59
 - of Ministers to Chapels, 44, 101, 132, 166, 318, 319, 327, 663, 682, 710, 711
 - of Ministers to Circuits, 101, 132, 133, 166, 167, 318, 319, 383
 - of New Leaders, 75
 - of New Trustees, 108, 109, 112, 731-734
 - of Poor Stewards, 64, 687
 - of President of French Conference, 651
 - of President of South African Conference, 651
 - of Probationers, 167
 - of Society Stewards, 64, 687
 - of Students by Stationing Committee, 542
 - of Superintendent Ministers, 546-547
 - of Young Leaders, 75
- Appointments**, Local Preachers', 89-90
- Official, 649-652
 - on Conference Plan, 540

- Approved Societies** under National Insurance Act, and Trust Properties, 59
- Arbitration** in 'Trust Disputes, 734-735
- Army and Navy**—
Board of Managers, 587
Capitation Payments, 122, 146, 391
Ministers, 136, 137, 389, 391. See *Ministers*.
Relation of Chaplains to District Synods, 389
Reports to District Synods, 390
Returns, 146
Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes, 390
Sub-Committee, 340, 587
Work and Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 136, 146, 391
Work and Leaders' Meeting, 80
Work in Foreign Districts, 389
- Articles of Agreement** for General Pacification, 681-684
- Assembly**, Welsh Wesleyan Methodist, 314, 525-529, 567, 646
- Assembly**, Methodist, 616, 617
- Assessment, General**, for Auxiliary, Children's, Connexional, and Theological Institution Funds, 505-510, 608-610
- Assistant**—
Class-Leaders, 69
Secretaries of the Conference. See *Conference*.
to Chairman of District, 446
to President of the Conference, 578
to Senior Minister, 158, 370
- Associations**, Juvenile Missionary, 162, 188, 332, 337, 338, 341
- Assurance Company**, Wesleyan Methodist Trust, 121
- Attendance** at Class, 18, 22, 24, 27, 34, 83
at the Lord's Supper, 11, 13, 22, 27, 33, 49, 77, 83, 304, 696
at the Means of Grace, 27
of Leaders at Leaders' Meetings, 75
of Ministers at Circuit official Meetings, 70
of Ministers at Conference. See *Conference*.
- Audit** of Missionary Accounts, 181, 187, 333
of Sunday School Accounts, 200
of Trust Accounts, 66, 119, 186, 332, 720, 721
- Auxiliary Fund**, The, 121, 159, 182, 185, 317, 337, 339, 373-380, 382, 494, 636-638
Allowances from, 317
Circuit Treasurer of, 185
Claimants to be Members of Society, 438
Collections and Subscriptions for, 182, 337, 339, 494
Committee of, 378, 610, 636
Funeral Allowances from, 438
General Treasurers of, 396, 554, 667
Grants for Affliction from, 376
- Backsliders**, 32, 700
- Ballot** in Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 140, 171
- Band Meetings**, 53, 698
- Bands of Hope**, 210-216
Auxiliary Agencies, 215
Chief Aim of, 216
Committee of, 212

Bands of Hope—continued.

- Conduct of, 214-215
- Conductor of, 213
- Declaration, 212
- General Rules of, 211
- Membership of, 213
- Objects of, 211
- Officers of, 213
- Preliminary Steps in Forming, 211
- President of, 213
- Quarterly Tickets of Membership, 214
- Registrars of, 212, 213
- Relation to Sunday Schools, 211, 212, 215
- Returns of Members in, 180
- Scholars' Pledges, 214
- Secretaries of, 186, 212, 213
- Treasurer, 212

Bankruptcy of Leaders or Stewards, 38
of Local Preachers, 38, 96
of Members of Society, 37, 40

Baptism—

- Administration of, 47, 48, 85, 681
- before the Sermon, 47
- both Parents expected to be present at administration of, 47
- by Preachers on Trial, 47, 48
- Form of, 47
- of unbaptized Candidates for the Ministry, 271
- of unbaptized Members of Society, 27
- Official Inquiry concerning Registration of, 48
- Private administration of, 48
- to be administered before the Sermon, 48
- to be administered in the Public Congregation, 47

Baptism—continued.

- to be administered to Children of Members, or of regular hearers, 47, 681
- to be registered, 48
- Baptized Children**, Relation to the Church, 48
- Bibles** to be given to Probationers at their Ordination, 647
- Birmingham Mission**, 588
- Board** of Management of Book Room, 492
- Board of Trustees** for Chapel Purposes, 128
- Boards**, School, 237
- Bolton Mission**, 589
- Book, Circuit**, 31, 100
- Book** Lists, for guiding studies of Local Preachers, 100
- Lists for guiding studies of Probationers, 310
- Lists, Probationers', 310
- of Offices, Revised, 47
- Book-Room Affairs**, 642-644
- Accounts, 330, 338, 644
- and Local Preachers, 618
- Balance Sheet, 644
- Board of Management, 642
- Editor, 642-644
- General Book Committee, 465, 643
- Grants, 643, 644
- Monthly Order, 333
- Profits of the, 643
- Remittances to, 335, 338, 342
- Scheme of Management, 642-644, 669, 689
- Steward, 29, 330, 642, 643, 644
- Books**, Account, 66, 720
- Official Circuit, 497
- Boundaries of Circuits**, 131, 175, 176
- Bradford Mission**, 589
- Brainerd**, Life of David, 347

Brotherhood, Methodist, 30

Brotherhoods, 78-80

Bureau of Membership, 29

Burial of the Dead, 47, 369

Business—

Failure in, 37, 40, 96
of a Class Leader, 8, 69
of Local Preachers' Meetings, 88-95
of the Annual District Synod, 454-497
of the Conference, 671-679.
See *Conference*.
of the Financial District Synod, 497-514
Over-speculation in, 40
Supernumeraries entering into, 377-379, 638, 753

Candidates for the Ministry,

97, 168-171, 261-280, 692
Allocation of accepted, 280
and the Theological Institution, 280
Baptism of unbaptized, 271
Biblical Examination, 265
Business not to be relinquished by, 279
Character of, 266-267
Circuit Quarterly Meeting and, 168-171
Conference and, 279
Designation of, 278
Educational Standard for, 170, 262
Examination at District Synods, 270
for Foreign Missions, 274, 277, 278, 410
from Ireland for Foreign Missionary Work, 274
from other Conferences and Churches, 268-269
from the Welsh Districts, 171, 266, 274, 282
from the Zetland District, 271

Candidates for the Ministry—
continued.

Lay Agents, 97, 171
List of Reserve, 280, 301, 302, 580, 645
Manual of Directions, 262
Manuscript Sermon, 272
Marks of a call to preach, 261
Married, 150-151, 268-270
Matrimonial Engagements of, 267
Memorandum of Agreement, 268-270
Methodist Discipline to be approved by, 169
must have acted as Local Preachers, 170
Names to be placed in Journal, 285
Nomination of, 169, 692
Payments by Candidates from other Conferences and Churches, 150
Payments by Married Candidates, 150-151, 268-270
Payments to Theological Institution, 292
Pledge to be signed by Married Candidates, 268
Preliminary Examination of, 262-265
prevented from being present at District Synods, 270-271
Qualifications of, 169-170
Residential Qualification of, 170
SPECIAL EXAMINATION COMMITTEE, 272-280, 462
Candidates for Mission Work from Ireland, 274
Candidates from the Zetland District, 271
Communications with, 272
Constitution of, 272-273

Candidates for the Ministry—
continued.

- Contributions to Theological Institution, 292
- Distribution of Candidates, 274
- Literary Paper, 275-277
- Manuscript Sermon, 272
- Manuscript Sermons Subcommittee, 273
- Medical Certificate, 277
- Medical Examination, 277
- Number of Candidates required, 278, 645
- Oral Examination, 277
- Report to Conference, 279
- Theological Paper, 276
- Welsh Districts, Candidates from, 266, 274
- Welsh Minister to be a Member of, 274
- who are sons of their Superintendents, 267
- Standard Doctrinal Works to be read by, 170, 461
- Summary* (Abridgement) to be read by, 169-170
- Superintendents' sons, 267
- System of Marks in examinations of, 265
- to be carefully selected, 169, 261
- Trial Sermons by, 266, 271, 272
- Voting in case of, 271
- Capitation Payments** and Pastoral Duties, 391
- Casting Vote**, Chairman's, 682, 722, 723
- President's, 662
- Catechisms**, 61, 198, 209, 232, 701
- Public Examination in the, 209, 709
- Central Mission** Quarterly Meetings and Non-Resident Trustees, 588

- Chairman** of Band of Hope, 213
- of Circuit official Meetings, 72
- of Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 139, 140
- of Circuit Temperance Society, 242
- of Circuit Temperance Union, 246
- of Courts of Superior Jurisdiction, 524
- of District Synod, 444-448. See *Districts*.
- of Leaders' Meeting, 72, 320
- of Local Preachers' Meeting, 87
- of Meeting for the Trial of a Chairman, 445
- of Memorials Committee, 566
- of Mixed District Synod, 101, 682, 712
- of Special Circuit Meeting, 135, 190
- of Special Committee of Missionary Society, 433
- of Special District Synod, 378
- of Sunday School Annual Meeting, 516-518
- of Sunday School Circuit Council, 225
- of Sunday School Committee, 199
- of Sunday School Teachers' Meeting or Local Council, 199, 217
- of Trustees' Meetings, 723
- Chairmanship** of District, Vacant, 444
- Chancery**, High Court of, 108
- Channel Islands** and French Conference, 435
- French Ministers in, 376
- Chapel Anniversaries**, 120
- Chapel Cases**, Irregular, 125, 601, 631

Chapel Committee, 106-128, 333, 476, 603, 616. See *Committee*.

Communications with, 125
Grants and Loans from, 115

Fund, Collections for, 182, 333, 494

Fund, General, 111, 182, 601

Fund, North Wales Districts, 484, 602

Fund, Scotland, 485

Fund, South Wales District, 484, 602

Fund, Subscriptions to, 111, 182, 333, 494

Chapel Model Deed, The, 104, 710-735

Account Books to be kept and audited, 719, 720
to be shown to Superintendent on request, 719

Actions at Law, 734

Appointment of Chapel Stewards, 718

of New Trustees, 731-734

of Preachers, 710-711

of Treasurer, 718

Appropriation of Purchase Money arising from Sale of Chapel, 725, 726

of Rents and Profits, 717
of surplus money, 717

Arbitration, 734

Auditors, 720

Deputies for, 720

to sign Accounts, 721

Chairman of Trustees'

Meeting, 723

Deputy for, 724

CHAPEL, 710

Cleansing, Lighting, and

Attending to, 717

Collections in, 716

Enlargement of, 714

Insurance of, 717

Mortgage of, 715

Chapel Model Deed—*continued*.

CHAPEL:

Re-building, 710

Repair of, 710, 717

Sale of, 724-728

Stewards, 718

Treasurer, 718

Connexional Funds, Subscriptions to, 718

Deceased Trustees, 730

Doctrines, Proviso respecting, 329, 713. See *Wesley's Sermons*.

General Rules and Usage of Methodists, 723

Increase in Number of Trustees, 733

Insurance against Fire, 717

Pews, Houses, Schoolrooms, Graves, and Tombs, 716

Preachers, Trial of, 711-713

Purchasers or Mortgagees, Proviso respecting, 727

Receipts of Trustees to be good discharges, 727

Rents and Profits, 717

Schoolroom, 714

Services, Time, Manner, and Conduct of, 711

Subscriptions to Circuit Funds, 717-718

to Connexional Funds, 718

Surplus money, Appropriation of, 717

TRUSTEES—

Deceased, 730

for six months out of Society, 728

Indemnification of, 729

Maximum number of, 733

Minimum number of, 731

New, 731-734

Re-appointment of, 730

to build Chapel, 710

to permit duly-appointed Preachers to preach in

Chapel, 710-711

Chapel Model Deed—*continued.*

TRUSTEES :

- when not answerable or accountable, 728
- withdrawing or excluded from the Methodist Society, 728-730

TRUSTEES' MEETINGS, 720-724

Annual, 720

for ordinary or urgent business, 722

for special business, 721

Notice of, 721-722

Persons who shall decide what is necessary or expedient, 723

Voting at, 722

Wesley's *Sermons*, 91, 329, 713, 736-747

Chapel Schedules, 719

Secretary, Circuit, 110, 187

Secretary, District, 179, 336

Secretary, General, 109

Stewards and Treasurers, 64-66, 718

Chapels—

Aid to Chapels without Seat-rents, 475

Alteration of, 163, 478

and Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 163, 478

Applications for pecuniary assistance beyond the limits of circuit, 602

Appointments to, 44, 101, 132, 166, 318, 327, 663, 682, 710, 711

Cleansing, Lighting, and Attending to, 717

Collections in, 120, 716

Enlargement of, 114, 163, 714

Erection of, 114, 163, 478

Form of Agreement for Mission, 111, 163

Insurance of, 120-122, 717

Chapels—*continued.*

Maximum number of Trustees, 733

Minimum number of Trustees, 119, 120, 731

Mission, 163

Mortgage of, 122, 715

Old, in large towns, 124, 164

Organs in, 118

Public Worship in, 343

Purchase of, 114, 163, 478

Rebuilding of, 710

Registration of, 117, 118

Repair of, 710, 717

Safety in case of Fire, 121

Sale of, 123-124, 577, 724-728

Sale of Village, 124, 483

Seats for Sunday School Children in, 205

Seats for the Poor in, 205, 716

Sites for New Chapels, 114-115

Solemnization of Matrimony in, 368

to be settled on Chapel Model Deed, 107

Unnecessary multiplication of, 616

Charge to newly Ordained Ministers, 580

Charges against Foreign Missionaries, 519-520

against Local Preachers, 88

against Members, 33-37

against Members who are Trustees, 39

against Ministers, 445, 446, 455, 514-516, 629, 633

against the Chairman of a District, 445

Frivolous, 516

Charity Commissioners, Applications to, 108, 113, 577

Children, Instructing the, 355, 356, 700, 701, 708

Children's Fund, The. See *Circuit Quarterly Meeting; Ministers' Children's Allowances, Conference.*

District Treasurer of, 150, 554, 667

Children's Home and Orphanage, 610-612

Collections for, 611

Committee of, 611

Deeds, 610

Full Title, 611

Principal of, 611

Children's—

Meetings, 701, 708

Sunday, 206

Christian—

Perfection, 348

Psalmody in Day Schools, 232

Christmas Offerings, 162

Church Membership, Report of

Committee (1889) on, 24

Statement of Conference (1908) concerning, 12-17

Church Universal and Particular, 12

Methodist Fellowship, 14-16

Ministry and Sacraments, 13-14

Nature of the Church, 12

Rules of Society, 16-17

Statement of Conference (1913) concerning Class and Society Meetings, 17-20

The Class Meeting, 17-18

Adaptation of the Class Meeting, 18

The Society Meeting, 19-20

Statement of Conference (1913) as to what constitutes Church Membership, 22-23

Church, Nature of the, 12

Universal and Particular, 12, 13

Church, Wesleyan Methodist, 2

Circuit Book, 31, 100, 339

Chapel Secretary, 110, 187, 332

Deficiencies, 152, 686

Foreign Missionary Committee, 180, 187

Home Mission Committee, 159-162, 188

Meeting, Special, 135, 189-193

Missionary Accounts, 187

Official Books and Records, 497

Plan, 41, 84, 137, 178, 304, 387

Sunday School Council Ministerial Secretary, 178, 179, 186, 333

Temperance Secretary, 180, 185, 246, 333

The, 131-258

Travelling Grants for, 152, 448, 469, 593

Circuit Quarterly Meeting, The, 138-189

Additional Ministers, Applications for, 155, 383, 547, 591, 609

Afflictions and Funeral Expenses, Grants for, 152, 437

Allowances, Ministers', 146, 147, 185

Alteration or Amalgamation of Circuits, 174-177

Appointment of Circuit Stewards, 65, 132, 186

of Ministers, 166-168

Army and Navy Returns, 146

Capitation Payments, 146

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—continued.

- Assessment, General, for
 - Auxiliary, Children's, Connexional, and Theological Institution Funds, 505, 510
- Auditors of Foreign Missionary Accounts, 181, 188
 - of Trust Accounts, 186, 720, 721
- Auxiliary Fund, 185
 - Circuit Treasurer of, 185
- Ballot in, 140, 141, 171
- Boundaries, Circuit, 131, 175, 176
- Candidates for Foreign Missions, 410, 411
 - for the Ministry, 97, 168-171, 261-280, 692
- Central Missions, in relation to Non-Resident Trustees, 139, 588
- Chairman of, 139, 140
 - of District and, 134-135, 173, 190, 466, 692
- Chapels, 163, 164
- Children's Allowances, 147-151
 - Fund, The, 148
- Circuit Stewards, 65, 70, 132, 138, 155, 171-173, 186, 668, 686, 687, 720
- Class Leaders and, 138
- Compendium of Regulations approved by, 20
- Conference Towns and arrangements between Ministers and Circuits, 168
- Connexional Funds, 182
 - Principle, 181
- Constitution of, 126, 138-139
- Contributions from Trust Funds, 145, 717, 718
- Councils, Methodist, 165

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—continued.

- Day Schools, Discontinuance of, 165, 234
 - Religious Instruction in, 178
 - Reports on, 178, 232
- Deficiencies, Circuit, 152, 686
- Disciplinary Cases, not a Court of Final Appeal in, 141
- Dissolution of, 140
- DISTRICT—
 - Sustentation Fund, 147
 - Synods and Financial State of Circuits, 466, 467
 - Synods, Representatives to, 171, 172
- Division of Circuits, 174-177, 547, 670, 686
- Expenditure of, 146-159
- Foreign Missionary Accounts, 181, 188
 - Committee, 180, 187
 - Secretaries and Treasurer, 180, 187
- Funeral Expenses of Ministers, 153, 437, 438
- Grants from Connexional Fund, 142, 147, 151-154, 593, 594
 - from Connexional Fund to be approved by, 152, 153, 593
 - not for Preachers on Trial, 154
 - towards furnishing additional houses, 156
- Home Mission Fund and Circuits, 147, 466, 467
- Missionary Ministers and, 157, 383
- Income of, 141-146
- Insurance of Trust Property, 120-122, 717

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—continued.

Interchanges, Expenses of, 134, 155
 Invitations to Ministers, 166-168
 Junior Society Classes, Return of Members in, 60
 Juvenile Missionary Associations, 162, 163, 188
 Lay Agents, 159-162
 Local Preachers and, 83, 86, 92, 138
 Memorials to Conference from, 181, 182-184, 565-567, 671
 Ministers and Preachers on Trial members of, 138
 Ministers without pastoral charge and, 138, 382
 Minutes, 131
 Mission Chapels and Rooms, 163
 New Rules for the Societies at large, 21, 622, 671, 688
 Not a Court of Appeal in Disciplinary Cases, 141
 Offertory System, Weekly, 143-145
 of Manchester (Oldham St.), 588
 Old Chapels in large towns, 124, 164
 Other Formal Meetings, 193
 Payments to Ministers, 185
 Pledges, Circuit, 155, 156
 Poor Stewards and, 138
 Re-appointment of Ministers, 168
 Reduction of the number of Ministers, 383
 Removal Expenses of an Invited Minister, 153
 Removals, Grants for, 153
 Representatives of Sunday Schools in, 139, 216

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—continued.

REPRESENTATIVES :
 to Circuit Sunday School Council, 188
 to Conference, 486
 to District Synods, 171, 172, 173
 Sanitary condition of Ministers' Houses, 159, 182
 Schedules, Chapel, 179, 180
 Education, 179
 Temperance, 139, 189
 Secretary, 139
 Circuit Chapel, 187
 Foreign Missionary Committee, 180, 187
 Temperance, 180, 185
 Senior Ministers, Assistants to, 158, 370
 Society Stewards and, 138
 SPECIAL Business of March, 166-181
 Business of June, 181-184
 Business of September, 185-186
 Business of December, 186-189
 Circuit Meeting and, 189-193
 Grant to Preachers on Trial, 154
 Stationing Committee, Communications with, 546
 Sunday School Returns, 178, 179
 Supernumerary Ministers and, 138
 Supplies, 157, 158
 Sustentation Fund, District, 147
 the proper Meeting for the Circuit, 193, 688
 Travelling Expenses of Supplies, 153, 154

Circuit Quarterly Meeting—*continued.*

Trust Debts and Division of Circuit, 177

Trustees and, 126, 138

Trustees' Meeting, Annual United, 187

Wesley Guild Returns, 179

Women Preachers, 86

Circuit Representation in District Synods, 171

Representatives' names to be sent to Chairman of District, 173

Safe, 110, 131, 497

Schedules. See *Superintendent Ministers*.

STEWARDS, 132

and District Synods, 65, 147, 171, 172, 187, 668, 692

and Leaders' Meetings, 65, 70

and Sunday School Circuit Councils, 224

Appointment of, 65, 132, 186

Auditors of accounts of Chapels settled on Model Deed, 186, 720, 721

Chapel Trust Accounts, 186, 720

Children's Allowances, 147-151

Circuit Deficiencies, 686

Divisions, 686, 687

Pledges, 155, 156

Quarterly Meeting, 138

Names to be sent to District Chairman and Secretary, 187

Number in a Circuit, 132

Pastoral Address to be given to, 63, 707

Right of Appeal, 65

Circuit—*continued.***STEWARDS** :

Sanitary condition of Ministers' Houses, 159, 182, 339, 501

Substitutes for, in District Synods, 172, 173

Substitutes for Circuit Representatives, 172, 173

Sunday School Councils, 224-226

Temperance Secretaries, 180, 185, 246, 340

Temperance Societies, 239-245

Temperance Unions, 245, 246

The, 131-258

Travelling, Grants for, 152, 448, 469, 470, 593

Treasurer of Auxiliary Fund, 185

Circuits, Alteration or Division of, 77, 174-177, 547, 670, 686, 687

and Army and Navy Ministers, 136

and Chairmen of Districts, 134, 135

and Claims of Conference Towns, 168

and District Synods, 134

and the President of the Conference, 134, 516, 576, 691, 692

Appointment of Ministers to, 44, 101, 132, 133, 166, 167, 318, 319, 383

Boundaries of, 131, 175, 176

Financial State of, 466

first mentioned, 131

Interchanges between, 134

to be divided into sections for pastoral visitation, 356

with one Minister, 133, 134, 135

Class Leaders—

Annual Circuit Meeting,
80-82
Appointment of, 24, 67, 68,
75, 684, 687
Assistants to, 69
Business of, 8, 69
Circuit Quarterly Meeting,
138
Class Books, 74, 698, 706
Commercial failure of, 38
Connexional Committee,
618
District Committee, 453
Doctrinal Qualification of,
62
Efficiency of, 68
Examination of, 707
in Mission Districts, 63
Junior Society, 59-62, 63
Ministers who resign under
Charges, 634-635
Mixed District Synod, 101-
103, 518, 682-683, 712
Moral character of, 707
New, 75, 698, 702
Nomination of, 61, 67, 75,
687, 698
not to admit or exclude
Members, 24
Number in Circuit to be re-
turned to Conference, 63
of small village Societies, 68
Origin of Office, 6, 8
Pastoral Address to be
given to, 63, 707
Removal from Office, 68,
684, 687
Residence and sphere of
work, 62
Right of appeal, 69
Suspended or expelled Min-
isters, 67, 68, 634-635
to attend Leaders' Meetings,
8, 75
to collect class-pence week-
ly, 41, 69

Class Leaders—continued.

to give Rules of the Society
to Members on Trial, 25
to inform the Minister of
Members who need to be
specially visited, 706
to insert names and resi-
dences of Members in
Class Books, 706
to recommend Members for
admission into the So-
ciety, 25
to see their Members once a
week, 8, 69, 75, 698
Young, 75

**Class, Local Preachers' Theo-
logical, 86, 94, 707**

Class Meetings—

Adaptation of, 18
Attendance at, 27, 28, 34
Conference (1913) State-
ments, 17-18, 22-23
Contributions in, 8, 41, 61,
466
Junior Society, 26, 59-62
Local Preachers to attend,
83
Ministers to maintain, 24
New, 702
Quarterly Visitation of, 26,
31-32, 37, 699
Value of, 17, 18, 23, 24,
705

Closing of Day Schools, 165

Sunday Schools, 207

Collections—

at Lovefeasts, 52
Chapel Anniversary, 120
for Auxiliary Fund, 182,
337, 339, 494
for Children's Fund, 182,
341, 494
for Children's Home, 611
for Connexional Fund, 182,
335, 494
for Connexional Funds, 141-
145, 182, 331, 623

Collections—continued.

- for Education Fund, 182, 335, 337, 494
- for Foreign Missionary Society, 182, 332, 333, 337, 340, 494
- for General Chapel Fund, 111, 182, 333, 494
- for Home Mission Fund, 182, 336, 337, 341, 342, 494
- for London Mission and Extension Fund, 182, 332, 335, 484
- for Theological Institution Fund, 182, 332, 342, 494
- in Chapels, 716
- Weekly Offertory, 143-145
- Commercial Failures**, 37, 40, 96
- Committee**, Adult Bible Class, 78
- Allocation, 559, 631
- Army and Navy Sub-, 136, 137, 587
- Auxiliary Fund, 375-380, 610, 636
- Band of Hope, 212, 223
- Birmingham Mission, 588
- Bolton Mission, 589
- Book, 465, 643
- Bradford Mission, 589
- Candidates' Allocation, 280, 284
- Candidates not present for Examination in District Synods, Special, 270, 271
- Candidates' Preliminary Examination, Sub-, 263
- Candidates' Special Examination, 272-280, 338.
- See *Candidates*.
- Chapel, 106-128, 333, 476, 603, 616
- Children's Fund, 607-610
- Children's Home, 611
- Circuit Foreign Missionary, 180, 187

Committee—continued.

- Circuit Home Missionary, 159-162, 188
- Circuit Sunday School Council, 224-226
- Circuit Temperance, 242
- Circuit Temperance Union, 245, 246
- Class Leaders', 453, 618
- Common Cash, 621
- Conference Arrangements, 539, 540, 546, 550, 551, 571
- Connexional Local Preachers, 99, 617-618
- Connexional Organ Sub-, 118, 119
- Connexional Sunday School Department, 218-219, 227-228
- Connexional Temperance, 239-247, 612
- Day Schools, 126-128, 165, 229-239, 472
- Designation, 278, 279, 301, 302, 312, 434, 580, 644-646
- District Foreign Missionary, 452, 502
- District Home Mission and Chapel, 118, 123, 153, 159-162, 383, 390, 451, 452, 466-470, 498-501, 593
- District Local Preachers', 97-99, 453, 473-474, 512
- District Synod Sunday School Committee, 207, 219, 452, 472, 510
- District Sunday School Council, 226, 227
- District Temperance, 452, 453, 473, 512
- Edinburgh Mission, 589
- Education, 126-128, 229-239, 599-600

Committee—continued.

First North Wales District
 Chapel Fund, 484, 602
 Home Mission, 587-591
 Hull Mission, 589
 in case of Commercial
 Failures, 38
 Leeds Mission, 589
 Leysian Mission, 589
 Liverpool Mission, 589
 Local Sunday School Coun-
 cil, 221-224
 London Mission and Exten-
 sion Fund, 603
 Manchester and Salford
 Mission, 588
 Memorials', 181-184, 565-
 567, 671
 Merthyr Mission, 589
 Methodist Settlement, 613
 Middle Class Schools Sub-,
 599
 Missionary, 397-435, 518-
 525, 598
 Missionary Discipline, 432,
 433, 523
 Missionary Special, 400, 406
 Necessitous Local Preach-
 ers' Fund, 619, 620
 Nomination of Members of
 Connexional Committees,
 567-570
 Nottingham Mission, 589
 of Privileges and Exigency,
 606, 607
 of Scrutineers in election of
 Departmental Ministers,
 395, 559
 of Scrutineers in election of
 Lay Representatives to
 the Conference, 595
 of Scrutineers of Confer-
 ence Votes, 652
 on Admission to the Con-
 ference Chapel, 550
 on Appeals and other cases,
 630

Committee—continued.

on Assistants to Senior
 Ministers, 370
 on Attendance at next
 Conference, 559
 on Attendance of Ministers
 at next Conference, 631,
 653
 on Chapel cases affecting
 Discipline, 631
 on Compulsory Supernu-
 meraries, 374
 on Concerted Action, 615
 on Grants for Circuit Travel-
 ling, 593
 on List of Reserve, 302, 632
 on Methodist Law, 649
 on Ministers retiring for
 one year, 373, 637
 on Ministers under Disci-
 pline and other cases, 635
 on Ministers who have had
 Supplies, and on Super-
 numeraries returning to
 Full Work, 381, 579, 632
 on Ministers without pas-
 toral charge, 381-383
 on Obituaries of Ministers,
 457, 458, 648
 on Ecumenical Conference,
 615
 on Revision of Assessment
 for Children's Fund, 608
 Probationers' Examination,
 305-310, 548
 Relief and Extension Fund
 for Scotland, 603
 Religious Observance of the
 Lord's Day, 512, 612, 620
 Seamen's Mission, 587
 Second North Wales Dis-
 trict Chapel Fund, 484,
 602
 Sheffield Mission, 589
 Social Purity, 612, 614
 South Wales District Chapel
 Fund, 484, 602

Committee—continued.

- Stationing, 541-550, 636
- Sunday School, 199-201
- Theological Institution, General, etc., 286-291, 294, 600
- Tract, 247
- Westminster New Hall and Mission, 589

Committees—

- Appointed by Conference, Special, 463
- Candidates' Manuscript Sermons Sub-, 273
- Constitution of Connexional, 568-569
- Departmental, and Schedules, 137
- District Auxiliary Missionary, 503
- President's right to nominate, 575
- Theological College House, 286, 287, 291
- Theological Institution Discipline, 287-291, 299
- Theological Institution Local Executive, 286, 291

Common Cash, 621**Communicants' Tickets, 49****Communion Cups, Individual, 31****Compendium of Regulations in Class Books, 20**

- of Regulations relating to the Home Mission Fund, 383
- of Regulations respecting Trust Property, 114, 163

Compulsory Supernumeraries, 374, 375, 636-637**Concerted Action among Methodist Churches, 615**

- United Committee, 615
- United Lovefeast, 616
- United Meetings, 616

Condition of Admission into the Society, 5, 8**Condition—continued.**

- of continued Membership in the Society, 9-11

Conductors of Prayer Meetings, 62**Conference, The, 531-655, 659-665, 666-679**

- Act of Majority, 557, 661
- Admission to the Conference Chapel during Representative Session, 550, 551
- Adult Bible Classes, Numbers in, 472
- Advices to the Preachers, Sundry, 537
- Affiliated Conferences, Ministers under, 641, 642, 648
- Agenda, 570, 582-586
- Allan Library, 615, 618
- Appeal, Court of Final, 518, 523, 629-630

Forfeiture of right of, 629

- Appeals and other cases, Committee on. See *Appeals*.

- Applications for pecuniary assistance for Chapels beyond limits of Circuit, 602

- Appointment of Assistant Secretaries, 584

- Appointment of Financial Secretaries of Districts, 448, 624

- Appointment of Preachers. See *Appointment*.

- Exceptional cases, 167
- of Superintendents, 133
- Re-appointment, 168
- Term of, 166, 663, 664

- Appointment of time and place of next Conference, 564, 661

- Appointments, Official, 649, 650-652, 669
- on Conference Plan, 540

Conference—continued.

- Arrangements Committee.
See *Committee*.
- Assistant, President's, 578
- Assistant Secretaries, The,
543, 584
- Conference Agenda, 583,
585
- Daily Record, 582
- Distinctive voting papers,
653
- District Minutes, 496
- Stationing Committee,
541
- Assistants to Senior Minis-
ters, 158, 370
- Attendance of Ministers at,
313, 464, 465, 538-540,
631-632
- Attestation of Elections in
Journal, 563
- Auxiliary Fund, 610. See
Committee.
- Birmingham Mission, 588
- Bolton Mission, 589
- Book-Room Affairs, 643-
644
- Bradford Mission, 589
- Candidates for the Ministry,
97, 168-171, 261-280,
692. See *Candidates*.
- Allocation Committee,
280-282, 284, 638
- Censure of, 140
- Chairman of Districts, Ap-
pointment of, 444, 445.
See *District Synods*.
- CHAPEL Building Fund, Me-
tropolitan, 603
- cases, Irregular, 125,
601
- Fund, General, 601, 602.
See *Committee*.
- Fund, North Wales Dis-
tricts, 602
- Fund, South Wales Dis-
trict, 602

Conference—continued.

- CHAPELS, Applications for
pecuniary assistance
beyond limits of Cir-
cuit, 602
- Sales of, 123, 124, 577,
724
- CHARACTER of Ministers and
Preachers on Trial, 633
- Right to make inquiry
into, 455
- Discussion to be private
and confidential, 633
- Charity Commissioners, Ap-
plications to, 108, 113,
577
- Children's Fund, The. See
*Children's Fund; Com-
mittee; Ministers*.
- Children's Home and Or-
phanage, 610, 612. See
Children's Home.
- Circuit pledges to provide
Houses to be presented
at, 155, 156
- CIRCUITS, Division of, 174-
177, 547, 670, 686-687
- Travelling Grants for,
469-470, 593-594
- Class Leaders, 618
- Cliff College, 590-591
- Collections and Subscrip-
tions for Connexional
Funds, Payment of, 143,
144, 182, 331, 623
- Committees, Nomination of,
567-569, 575
- Reports of Special, 584.
See *Committee; Com-
mittees*.
- Common Cash, 621
- Concerted Action among
Methodist Churches, 615,
616
- Connexional Documents,
Custody of, 583
- Connexional Fund, The, 592

Conference—continued.

CONNEXIONAL—

- Funds, 182
- Local Preachers' Committee, 617
- Principle, 181, 298, 318
- Constitution of, 533, 660, 661
- Formal, 558, 559, 560–563
- Convener of Committee of Scrutineers of Conference
- Votes to be a Member of the Conference in its Pastoral Session, 652
- Conversation on the Work of God, 594
- Daily Record, The, 582, 583
- Day Schools, Transfer of, 127
- DEATHS of Ministers and Preachers on Trial, 648
- belonging to Affiliated Conferences, 642
- Deed of Declaration, 659–665
- Definition of 'The Yearly Conference,' 533, 660
- Delegate in Ireland, Acts of, 653, 664
- Appointment of, 650
- Departmental Ministers, 392–396. See *Ministers*.
- Deputations, Home and Foreign Missionary, 502
- Deputations to other Conferences, 607
- Deputations to the Conference, 598
- Designation Committee, 278, 279, 301, 302, 312, 434, 580, 644–646
- Dispensations, 561
- Distinctive Voting Papers for use of Legal Conference, 653

Conference—continued.

- District Minutes, 496
- District Synods and, 441–444, 455, 456, 462, 463, 495
- Division or Alteration of Circuits or Districts, 77, 174–177, 547, 670, 686, 687
- Duration of, 654, 662
- Edinburgh Mission, 589
- Education, 599. See *Committee; Middle Class Schools; Connexional Sunday School Department; Children's Home and Orphanage*.
- ELECTION of Chairmen of Districts, 444
- of President and Secretary, 561–563, 627–628. See *The President; The Secretary*.
- Elections to the Legal Conference, 560, 625, 626
- Examination of Candidates for Ordination, 513
- EX-PRESIDENT, The, 579, 580
- Attestation of Elections in Journal, 563
- Charge to Newly Ordained Ministers, 580
- Committee for Revision of Assessments for Children's Fund, 608
- Committees of Connexional Departments, 575
- Death, or protracted illness of the President, 578, 579
- Formal Constitution of the Conference, 559
- Irish Conference, 659
- List of Reserve, 580
- Memorials Committee, Chairman of, 566

Conference—continued.**EX-PRESIDENT :**

- Ministers retiring for One Year, Provision for, 637
- Ordination Service, 314
- Sermon at the Conference, 541
- Stationing Committee, 542
- Supplies, 579
- Expulsion of Ministers, 581, 626, 634, 663, 664, 753
- Extension of Methodism in Great Britain, 603
- Extinction of, 665

FINANCIAL—

- Secretaries of Districts, Appointment of, 448, 624
- State of Circuits receiving Grants from the Home Mission Fund, 499
- Foreign Missionaries, Transfer of, 434, 435
- Trial of, 432, 433, 519. See *Committee ; Ministers.*

- French Conference, Interchange with, 435
- President of the, 651

FULL CONNEXION—

- Admission of Ministers from other Conferences and Churches into, 150, 268, 317, 318, 639
- Admission of Probationers into, 313, 314, 528, 639, 663
- Ministers in, under Affiliated Conferences, 641
- Form of entry in Journal, 640
- Privileges of Ministers in, 316, 317
- Probationers to have had experience of Circuit work, 313

Conference—continued.**FULL CONNEXION :**

- Reception into, 304, 639
- Superintendents, if possible, to be in, 319
- General Rules and Usage of the People called Methodists, 344, 723
- Gospel Cars, 591
- Grant to Ministers retiring for one year, 373, 637
- Grants, 593
- for Circuit Travelling, 152, 448, 469, 470, 593
- HOME MISSION FUND, 587
- Army and Navy Subcommittee of, 340, 587
- Connexional Status of Missions in large towns, 587
- Home Mission Deputations, 591
- Report on observance of Regulations relating to Home Missionaries, 386
- Report on Seamen's Mission, 392
- Hours of Session, 558, 564
- Hull Mission, 589
- Induction of the President, 571
- Invalid Ministers' Rest Fund, 610
- IRELAND—
- Acts of Delegate in, 653, 654, 664
- Admission into Full Connexion in, 640
- Appointment of Delegate, 650, 651
- Members of the Legal Conference from, 625
- Isle of Man District Synod, Minister to attend, 652

Conference—continued.

JOURNAL of, 581

Acts of the Conference to be entered and subscribed in the, 581, 664

Acts of the Delegate in Ireland to be entered in the, 653, 654, 664

Attestation of Elections in the, 563

Custody of the, 583

Manner of keeping the, 581-583

Ministers under Affiliated Conferences, 641

Ministers whose names are only on the, 635

Names of Accepted Candidates to be placed in the, 285

Names of Preachers admitted on Trial and into Full Connexion to be entered in the, 639, 640, 663

Reading and Confirmation of the, 581-583, 654, 664

Sales of Trust Property to be entered in the, 123, 577

Signing the, 581, 655, 664

Stations of Ministers, 583

Supernumeraries who have entered into business, 379

Lawsuits relating to Trust Property, 113

LAY REPRESENTATION in, 535

Relation of the Pastoral to the Representative Session, 536, 670

Resolution of the Conference on, 536

Scheme of, 666-671

Conference—continued.

LAY REPRESENTATION :

Subjects exclusively within the province of the Pastoral Session, 536, 668-669, 676-679

Subjects exclusively within the province of the Representative Session, 536, 669, 670, 672-676

LAY REPRESENTATIVES in, 553-556

Committee of Scrutineers, 595

Election by Conference, 595-597, 667

Election by District Synods, 485, 668

Lay Treasurers of Connexional Funds to be, 554, 667

Number of, 552, 666, 667

Number of, in each District to be determined by the Conference, 668

Qualifications of, 553, 667

Substitutes for, 486, 556

Lay Workers' College, 590

Leaving before business is finished, 655

Leeds Mission, 589

LEGAL CONFERENCE, THE, 557-563, 660-665

and Irish Conference, 625

Business reserved to, 558, 563

Temporary Supernumeraryship and, 626

Vacancies caused by Superannuation, 625

Leys School, The, 669

Leysian Mission, 589

List of Reserve, President's, 158, 280, 285, 301, 302, 580, 632, 645

Committees on, 302, 580, 632, 645

Conference—continued.

- Liverpool Mission, 589
- Local Preachers' Committee, Connexional, 99, 617-618
- Fund, Necessitous, 619, 620
- London and the Conference, 564
- London Mission and Extension Fund, 484, 603
- Lord's Day, Religious Observance of the, 9, 54, 512, 612, 620, 697
- Majority, Act of the, 411, 557, 661
- Manchester and Salford Mission, 588
- Quarterly Meeting of Manchester (Oldham Street) Circuit, 588
- MEMORIALS from Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 181, 182-184, 529, 565-567, 671
- Chairman of Committee, 566
- Committee, 566
- Consideration by Conference, 184, 567
- Convener of the Committee, 566
- must comply with Standing Orders, 565
- Reception of, 565
- Standing Orders concerning, 182-184
- Subject of, 565
- Merthyr Central Mission, 589
- METHODIST—
 - Assembly, 616
 - Messages to other Conferences, 597
 - Representatives from other Conferences, 597
 - Statistics, Tabular View of, 616

Conference—continued.

- Middle-class Schools, 599
- MINISTERS—
 - Additional, 155-157, 469, 591
 - Decrease in the Number of, 591
 - Excluded, 26, 85, 634
 - Exclusion of, 581, 626, 634, 663, 664, 753
 - from other Conferences and Churches, 150, 268, 317, 318, 639
 - residing abroad, 380
 - Suspended, 85, 101-103, 456, 538, 545, 634
 - under Discipline, Fund for, 635
 - who resign under Charges, 634-635
 - whose names are on the Journal only, 635
 - without Pastoral Charge and the Legal Conference, 382, 626. See *Ministers*.
- Minutes of, 2, 20, 132, 304, 330, 344, 379, 381, 382, 548, 549, 616
- Missions in Large Towns, Connexional Status of, 587
- Necessitous Local Preachers Fund, 619
- Committee, 620
- Income, 620
- Trustees, 619
- New Rules for the Societies at large, 21, 622, 671, 689
- NOMINATION COMMITTEE, 567-570
- Conference Agenda, 570
- Constitution of, 567
- Lay Members of Connexional Committees, 568

Conference—continued.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE :

- Lists of Members of Connexional Committees, 568
 - Members of Connexional Committees, 569
 - Ministerial Members of Connexional Committees, 568
 - New Members of Connexional Committees, 568, 570
 - Qualification of Members of Connexional Committees, 568-569
 - Secretaries, Duties of, 568, 569
 - Secretaries of Connexional Departments, 568, 569, 570
 - Time of Meeting, 567
 - Vacancies among Lay Members of the Conference, 556
 - North and South Wales District Chapel Funds, 602
 - Notices of Motion, 572-574, 586, 632, 633, 672
 - Nottingham Mission, 589
 - Obituaries of Deceased Ministers, 457, 458, 527, 648
 - Ecumenical Conference, 615
 - Official Appointments, 607, 649-652, 669
 - Open Session, 571, 597, 598, 674
 - Order and Form of Business of, 671-679
- ORDINATION of Ministers, 314, 528, 647, 678
- Examination of Candidates for, 312-314, 459, 528
 - Welsh Candidates for, 314, 528

Conference—continued.

PASTORAL—

- Address, 42, 63, 340, 631, 707
 - Reports of Schools, 669
 - Session, Subjects within the province of the, 536, 668-669, 676-679
 - Payment of Book Accounts, 330, 644
 - Plan, 540
 - Platform, 541
- PRESIDENT, The, 561-563, 571-579, 627-628
- Acts of the Conference to be entered in the Journal, 581-583, 664
 - Acknowledgement of all courtesies and hospitalities, 564
 - Admission to the Conference Chapel, 550
 - Appeals, Committee on, 630
 - Assistant to, 578
 - Attendance of Preachers at Conference, 538
 - Attestation of Election in Journal, 563
 - Chairman of all Connexional Committees, 575
 - Chairmanship of District, 444
 - Chairmen of Districts, 444, 445, 446
 - Children's Home, The, 611
 - Circular, Annual, 182, 336
 - Committee of Privileges and Exigency, 606, 607
 - Committees of Connexional Departments, 575
 - Communication sent to each of other Methodist Conferences, 597
 - Conference Plan, 540

Conference—continued.**PRESIDENT:**

- Conference Procedure, 586
- Connexional Committees, 575
- Day Schools, Transfer of, 127
- Death of, 578, 628
- Designation Committee, 644
- Discipline Committee of Theological Institution, General, 288
- Dispensation to Probationers to administer the Sacraments, 48
- District Minutes, 496
- Election of, 561-563, 627, 628, 662
- Examination of Candidates for Ordination, 313, 314
- Expenses of, 578
- Illness of, Protracted, 579
- Induction of, 571
- Irish Conference, 650
- Journal, The, 581-583, 664
- List of Reserve, 158, 280, 285, 301, 302, 580, 632, 645
- Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 182-184, 566, 671
- Methodist Settlement in London, 613
- Ministers resident abroad, 380, 381
- Minor District Synods, 514, 576
- Nomination Committee, 567
- Nomination of, 627
 - of Committees, 575, 586

Conference—continued.**PRESIDENT:**

- not to be a Representative of a District in the Stationing Committee, 542
- Notices to sell Trust Property, 726
- Order and Form of Conference Business, 671-679
- Ordination of Ministers, 314, 647
- Pastoral Address, 631
- Power to attend District Synods, 516-518, 576, 691
- to nominate Committees, 575, 586
- to sanction change of Preachers in the intervals of the Conference, 575, 691
- to sign applications to Charity Commissioners, 113, 577
- to sign document giving permission for the sale or transfer of Trust Property, 90, 123, 127, 577, 724
- to supply a Circuit with Preachers, 300, 575, 691
- to visit Circuits, 134, 576, 691, 692
- Privilege and Power of, 571, 662
- Procedure, Conference, 586
- Reception of Preachers into Full Connexion, 639, 640
- Re-election of, 579
- Relation of the Pastoral to the Representative Session of the Conference, 536, 670

Conference—continued.

PRESIDENT :

- Reporters, 551
- Resolutions of District Synods, 537, 671
- Rules of Debate, 571-575
- Sermon at the Conference, 541
- Signing the Journal, 581, 655, 664
- Special District Synod, 516-518, 691
- Stationing Committee, 542
- Supplies, 157, 158, 300, 301, 302, 370, 371
- to receive in the first instance, intimation from any Minister intending to resign, 458
- Trial of a Chairman of a District, 445
- Voting by Proxy for, 563
- Voting for, 561, 627
- Privileges and Exigency, Committee of, 606, 607
- Extraordinary Committee, 607
- Ordinary Committee, 606
- PROBATIONERS, Admission into Full Connexion, 639, 663
- and Provincial Synods in Mission Field, 640
- Desisting from travelling, 303, 635
- Examinations of, 305-312, 313, 314, 639
- No right to vote at the, 312
- Procedure, 586
- Quorum, 557, 662
- Re-election of President, 579
- Relation of Pastoral to Representative Session, 536, 670

Conference—continued.

- Reporters, 551
- Report of—
 - Committees, 572, 586
 - Special Committees referred to District Synods, 463, 584
- REPRESENTATIVE SESSION, The, 552-624, 672-675
- Business to be reserved to the Legal Conference, 558, 563
- Business to be transacted in the first session, 557-559
- Commencement of, 557, 672
- Conference Procedure, 586
- Constitution of, 552-556, 666-668
- Eligibility and election of Members, 353, 354, 667-668
- Formal Constitution of the Conference, 559
- Hours of Session, 564
- Order and Form of Business, 672-675
- Privileges and Rights of, 392, 393
- Subjects within the province of, 392, 669-670
- Substitutes for Representatives, 486
- Vacancies among Lay Members of Conference, 556
- REPRESENTATIVES from other Conferences, 597, 598, 674
- Accredited Visitors, 597
- Appointments on Conference Plan, 598
- Australian Methodist Church, 597
- Correspondent appointed, 598

Conference—continued.

REPRESENTATIVES :

- French Conference, 597
- Hospitality, 598
- Irish Conference, 597
- Methodist Church in Canada, 597
- Methodist Episcopal Church, 597
- Methodist Episcopal Church South, 597
- New Zealand Conference, 597
- Order of Visits, 597
- South African Conference, 597
- to other Conferences, 597
- RESOLUTION on John Wesley's Letter to, 535
- on Lay Representation in, 536
- on Rights of Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 622, 671
- RESOLUTIONS, Conflicting, 536
- of District Synods, 537, 671
- provisionally adopted by the preceding Conference, 622
- Returns to Conference, 63, 330
- Rostrum or Tribune, 541
- Rotation of Conferences, 564
- Rules of Debate, 571-575
- Sacramental Service, 594
- Sales of Trust Property, 123, 577, 724-727
- to be entered in Journal, 123
- Scotland, Relief and Extension Fund for, 485, 603
- Scrutineers of Conference
- Votes, 395, 595, 596, 652
- Seamen's Mission, 587

Conference—continued.

- SECRETARY, The, 581-584
- Acts of the Conference to be entered in the Journal, 581-583, 664
- Acts of the Delegate in Ireland to be entered in the Journal, 654, 664
- and Admission to the Conference Chapel, 550
- Attestation of elections in Journal, 563
- Stations in Journal, 583
- Committees of Connexional Departments, 568, 575
- Conference Procedure, 586, 587
- Death of, 628
- Deceased Ministers, 648
- Designation Committee, 644
- Election of, 535, 561-563, 627, 662
- Expenses of, 578, 584
- Journal of the Conference, 285, 581-583, 663, 664
- Memorials Committee, 584
- Names of Candidates to be placed in Journal, 285
- Nomination of, 627
- not to be Representative of a District in the Stationing Committee, 542
- Ordination of Ministers, 314, 647
- Reports of Special Committees, 584
- Sales of Trust Property to be entered in the Journal, 123, 577

Conference—continued.**SECRETARY:**

Signing the Journal, 581,
655, 664

Special Examination
Committee, 273

Stationing Committee,
541-550

Stations in the Confer-
ence, 549, 646

Trial of a Chairman of a
District, 445

Voting for, 561-563

**SENIOR MINISTERS and Su-
perintendency, 320**

Assistants to, 158, 370

Circuits for, 546

Sermons by the President
and Ex-President, 541

Settlement in London, Me-
thodist, 613

Sheffield Mission, 589

Social Purity, 612, 614

South African Conference,
President of, 651

Special Circuit Meeting,
Appeal from, 189-193

**STATIONING COMMITTEE,
The, 541-550**

Additional Preachers,
155-157, 469, 591

Addressed Wrappers, 546

Appointment of Students,
542

Assistant Secretary of the
Conference to attend,
543

Circuit Quarterly Meet-
ings and, 546

Conference Arrange-
ments Committee, 546

Constitution of, 541-543

District Synods not to
interfere with Stations,
546

Division of Circuits, 547.
See *Circuits*.

Conference—continued.**STATIONING COMMITTEE:**

Entry of Stations in
Journal, 583

Expediting Business of,
546

Ex-President of the Con-
ference and, 542

Final Draft of Stations,
546

First and final reading
of Stations, 549

Draft of Stations, 544,
545, 549

Foreign Missionary Secre-
tary and, 542

Foreign Stations, 549

Home Missionary Com-
mittee Representative
on, 543

Ministers under Disci-
pline, 545

Numbering of Circuits
and Stations, 132, 547

Postal Addresses in Sta-
tions, 548

Preachers on Trial, Ap-
pointments of, 547

Preliminary Draft of Sta-
tions, 544

Preparations for the
meeting of, 543

President of the Confer-
ence and, 542

Probationers and the
Lord's Supper, 550

Regulations concerning,
545

Removal Expenses of
invited Ministers, 153

Removals, Short, 547

Representatives of Dis-
tricts, 513, 541-543,
546

Election of, 513, 541

Secretary of the Confer-
ence and, 542-544

Conference—continued.

- STATIONING COMMITTEE :
 Senior Ministers, 320, 546
 Short Removals, 547
 Stations, 132, 527, 544-549
 Students leaving Theological Institution, 542, 546
 Superintendents, 133, 547
 Supplies in relation to a third year's appointment, 167
 Term of appointment to a Circuit, 166
 Theological Institution, Representatives of, 542
 Times of Meeting, 544, 545
 Transfer from Foreign Stations, 544
 University Degrees, 548, 549
 Welsh Assembly, 527, 528
 Stations in the, 549, 646
 Students, Fourth year in the Theological Institution, 281, 299, 300
 Reports on, 285, 289-291
 Suggestions from District Synods to, 285, 289-291. See *Memorials*.
 Convener and Secretaries of District Synods, 495
 Definition of Suggestion, 495
 relating to Connexional Departments, 495
 Welsh Assembly and, 528
 Sunday School Department, Connexional, 217-220, 227, 228, 600
 SUPERNUMERARIES entering into business, 377-379, 638
 for one year, 373, 626, 637

Conference—continued.

- SUPERNUMERARIES :
 Ministers becoming, 371-381, 636
 Ministers who have travelled less than eighteen years becoming, 377-379
 residing abroad, 380-381
 returning to full work, 381, 632
 Term of Active Service, 371
 Travelling expenses of Members of the Legal Conference, 374
 who are Members of the Legal Conference, 625, 626
 SUPERNUMERARYSHIP, Compulsory, 374, 375
 Temporary, in relation to the Legal Conference, 374, 626
 Supplies, 370, 371, 579
 Supremacy of, 532
 Suspended Ministers, 85, 456, 538, 545, 634
 Sustentation Funds, District, 147
 Taunton College, 669
 Temperance Committee, 612-613
 Duties of, 612
 Secretary of, 613
 Theological Institution Committee, 600
 Discipline Committees, 287-291
 Time of Meeting of the Pastoral Session, 624
 of the Representative Session, 557
 Towns, 564
 Claims of, 168
 Transfers of Day Schools to be sanctioned by, 127

Conference—*continued.*

- Tribune, 541
- Vacancies among Lay Members of the Conference, 556
 - in the Legal Conference, Mode of filling up, 560, 625, 626
- Votes of Thanks, 564
- Voting by proxy for the President, 563
 - papers, 595-597, 560, 653
- Wesley Deaconess Institute, 619
- Wesley Guild, 618
- Wesley's letter to, 534
- Westminster New Hall and Mission, 589

Conference Towns and Ministers invited to other Circuits, 168

Conformity to the World, 55

Connexion, Title of the, 2

Connexional—

- Departments, Committees of, 568-570
- Documents, 497
- Evangelists, 388
- Funds, 141-145, 182, 331, 623
- Funds and Junior Society Members, 61
- Lay Agents, 388
- Local Preachers' Committee, 99, 617-618
- Principle, 181, 298, 318
- Schools, 334, 341, 488-494
- Status of Local Missions, 587
- Subscriptions and Collections, 331, 494, 623
- Sunday School Department, 217-220, 227, 228, 600
- Connexional Evangelists**, 388
- Connexional Fund, The**, 469-471, 592-593
- Circuit Deficiencies, 152

Connexional Fund—*continued.*

- Collections for, 182, 335, 494
- Committee of, 593
- Compulsory Supernumeraries, 374
- GRANTS for Afflictions and Funeral Expenses, 152, 153, 470
 - for Assistants to Senior Ministers, 158, 370
 - for Circuit Travelling, 469, 592, 593
 - for Connexional Expenses, 592
 - for furnishing Preachers' Houses, 156, 471, 592
 - for furnishing Supernumeraries' Houses, 375, 471, 592
 - for Removals, 470, 592
 - for Supplies, 157, 158, 470, 592
 - to Chairmen of Districts for Supplies, 446
 - to Ministers retiring for one year, 373
 - to Temporary Supernumeraries, 373
- Income of, 592
- Probationers' Examination Expenses, 307
- Travelling expenses of Supernumerary Ministers who are Members of the Legal Conference, 374
- Yearly Collection to be made in Wales, 592
- Conscience** Clause in Day Schools, 232
- Constitution** of Band of Hope Committee, 212
- Birmingham Mission Committee, 588
- Bolton Mission Committee, 589
- Bradford Mission Committee, 589

Constitution—continued.

- Central Mission Quarterly Meetings, 139
- Circuit Missionary Committee, 180
- Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 138, 139
- Circuit Sunday School Council, 224, 225
- Circuit Temperance Society Committee, 242
- Circuit Temperance Union Committee, 245
- Committee in case of Commercial Failures, 37
- Committee on Concerted Action, 615
- Committee to revise Assessments for the Children's Fund, 608, 609
- Conference Committee on Admission to the Conference Chapel, 550
- Conference Committee on Appeals and other cases, 630
- Conference Committee on Assistants to Senior Ministers, 370
- Conference Committee on Compulsory Supernumeraries, 374
- Conference Committee on Grants for Circuit Traveling, 593
- Conference Committee on Ministers retiring for one year, 637
- Conference Committee on Nomination of Connexional Committees, 567
- Conference Committee of Scrutineers of Conference Votes, 652
- Conference Designation Committee, 644-645

Constitution—continued.

- Conference, The, 533, 534, 552-557, 661, 666-668
- Connexional Local Preachers' Committee, 617
- Connexional Sunday School Council, 227
- Courts of Superior Jurisdiction in the Mission Field, 524
- Day School Management, 230, 231
- Discipline Committees of the Theological Institution, 287-291
- District Class Leaders' Committee, 453
- District Home Mission and Chapel Committee, 451, 452
- District Local Preachers' Committee, 453
- District Missionary Committee, 452
- District Sunday School Committee, 452
- District Sunday School Council, 226
- District Synod, Annual, 449-454
- District Synod, Financial, 497-498
- District Synod, Minor, 514
- District Synod, Mixed, 518
- District Synod, Special, 325, 516-518
- District Temperance Committee, 452, 453
- Edinburgh Mission Committee, 589
- Hull Mission Committee, 589
- Leaders' Meeting, 70, 71
- Leaders' Meeting for the trial of a Trustee, 39
- Leaders' Meeting of Richmond College Chapel, 70

Constitution—*continued.*

- Leysian Mission Committee, 589
- Local Preachers' Meeting, 87
- Local Sunday School Council, 221, 222
- Manchester (Oldham Street) Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 139
- Merthyr Mission Committee, 589
- Nottingham Mission Committee, 589
- Seamen's Mission Committee, 587
- Sheffield Mission Committee, 589
- Special Circuit Meeting, 189
- Special Committee for the Examination of Missionary Candidates in exceptional cases, 406, 411
- Special Committee of the Missionary Society, 432
- Special Examination Committee (Candidates' July Committee), 272, 273
- Stationing Committee, 541, 542, 543
- Sunday School Committee, 199, 200
- Welsh Assembly, 525-526
- Westminster New Hall and Mission Committee, 589

Contributions by Candidates to Theological Institution Fund, 292

- from Sunday Schools, 118
- from Trust Funds, 145, 717, 718
- in the Classes, 8, 23, 26, 41, 61, 466

Convener of Committees of Appeal, 630
of Memorials Committee, 183, 495, 566**Convener**—*continued.*

- of Scrutineers of Conference Votes, 652
- Cottage Prayer Meetings**, 701
- Cottage Preaching**, 702
- Courts of Superior Jurisdiction in the Mission Field**, 522-525
 - Appeals from District Synods to, 522
 - Appeals to Conference against decisions of, 523
 - Candidates and, 524, 525
 - Chairman and Secretary of, 524
 - Constitution of, 524
 - Decisions as to Penalty, 523
 - Election of Representatives, 524
 - Jurisdiction over Ministers and Preachers on Trial, 524
 - Powers of, 522-524
 - Probationers not to be Representatives, 524
- Councils** in large towns, Methodist, 165
- Covenant Service**, Admission to, 53
 - and Local Preachers' Meetings, 95
 - Importance of, 53
 - in village Societies, 53
- Creating strife in a Circuit**, 38, 326
- Curriculum** at Theological Institution, 294-298
- Custody** of Agenda of the Conference, 583
 - of Connexional Documents, 497, 583
 - of Deeds, 109
 - of Legal Opinions obtained by direction of the Conference, 583
 - of Minutes of District Synods, 583

Custody—*continued.*

- of Minutes of Memorials Committee, 583
- of Official Circuit Books and Records, 497
- of Record of Legacies and Funds left to the Connexion, 583
- of Reports of Special Committees or Commissions appointed by the Conference, 583
- of the Journals and Daily Records of the Conference, 583

Dancing, 55**Day Schools**, 126-128, 229-239

- Admission to the Training Colleges, 239
- Applications for pecuniary assistance beyond limits of Circuit, 602
- Bible in, 232, 237
- Catechism in, 232
- Chairmen of Districts, 511
- Chapel Committee and, 127, 229
- Christian Psalmody in, 232
- Circuit Ministers and, 178, 231-233
- Circuit Quarterly Meeting and, 178, 179, 233
- Closing of, 127, 128, 165, 166, 234, 235
- Committee, 165, 231
- Conference Declaration, 237
- Conference to sanction transfer of, 127
- Connexional Training Colleges, 239
- Conscience Clause in, 232
- Discontinuance of, 165, 234-237
- District Sunday School Committee and, 237, 472

Day Schools—*continued.*

- Education Committee and, 126, 127, 179, 229, 230, 234, 236, 237, 238
- Erection and Enlargement of, 126, 229, 230
- Examination in Religious Knowledge, 233
- Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge, 511
- Grants from Education Committee, 229, 230
- Importance of, 238
- Instruction in Physiology and Hygiene, 234
- Instruction in Religious Knowledge, 178, 232, 233, 237-238
- Legal Settlement of, 108, 111, 126
- Management, 230-232
- Managers, Foundation, 230
- Representative, 231
- New, 126, 229
- Prayer in, 232
- Religious Worship in, 232
- Report on Religious Instruction in, 178, 233
- School Boards, 127, 237
- Secretaries, District Sunday School, 179, 238
- Secretaries of, 178
- Statistics and Schedules of, 179, 238
- Superintendents of Circuits and, 127, 178, 179, 231-233
- Teachers in, 233
- Temperance Teaching, 234
- Time Tables, 178
- to be settled on the Chapel Model Deed, 111, 126
- Transfer of, 127, 128, 165, 166, 234, 235
- Trustees of, 126

Day Schools—*continued.*

Visitation of, by Ministers,
178, 233

Visitors of, 178, 232

Deaconess Institute, Wesley, 619

Deceased Ministers. See *Ministers.*

December Circuit Quarterly

Meeting, Special Business
of the, 186-189

Deed of Declaration, The (Deed
Poll), 659-665

The Chapel Model, 104. See
Chapel Model Deed.

Deeds, 107

Alteration of existing Trusts,
108

Custody of, 109

Enrolment of, 108

Execution of, 108-109

Forms of, 111-113

of the Children's Home, 611

Register of, 110

Registration of, by Chapel
Committee, 109

Relation of Rules of Metho-
dism to provisions of
Chapel Trust, 106

School Model, 127

Deficiencies, Circuit, 152, 686

Degrees, University, 283, 296,
297, 548, 549

Delegate in Ireland, 650

Departmental Ministers. See
Ministers.

Departments, Schedules from,
137

Deputations for Home and
Foreign Missions, 502

Designation Committee, 278,
279, 301, 302, 312, 434,
580, 644-646

Didsbury College and Candi-
dates, 272-274

Directions for internal manage-
ment of Sunday Schools,
197, 198

Discipline, Methodist, 11, 20-21,
23, 26, 27, 33-41, 54-59,
68, 71, 169-170, 342,
347, 366, 454-457, 514-
518, 519, 522-525, 629-
631, 634-636, 647, 682-
684, 704

Committees of Theological
Institution, 287-291

Separate Minute Books, 71

Standard of, 11, 20-21,
169-170, 325, 647

Standard of Methodist, 11,
20-21, 169-170, 647

Discontinuance of Day Schools,
165-166

of Public Services, 94, 97,
124

of Sunday Schools, 207

Dispensations to Members of
the Legal Conference,
561, 662, 663

to Probationers to admin-
ister Sacraments, 47-49,
550

Dissolution of Circuit Quarterly
Meeting, 140

District Committees. See *Com-
mittee.*

Chapel Secretary, 180, 336,
452

Children's Fund Treasurer,
150

Financial Secretary, 336,
339, 448, 449, 624

Foreign Missionary Secre-
taries, 452

Foreign Missionary Treas-
urer, 180, 333, 337

Home Mission Secretary,
452

Local Preachers' Secretaries,
453

Probationers' Examination
Secretary, 307

Secretary of Synod, 131,
448, 457, 496

District—*continued.*

- Sunday School Secretary, 179, 336, 452
- Temperance Secretary, 336
- Wesley Guild Secretary, 336
- District Synod, Annual**, 449-497
 - Adult Bible Classes, Returns of, 472
 - Appeals to, 35, 65, 69, 89, 190-193, 323, 516, 629
 - Army and Navy Ministers, 136
 - Work, Reports on, 390
 - Assessment (General) for Connexional Funds, 505-510
 - Attendance of Ministers at, 449
 - Attendance of Ministers at Conference, 464, 538-540
 - Baptisms, Inquiry as to Registration of, 48
 - Book Committee, 465
 - Book Lists, Probationers', 310
 - Business of, 449, 454
 - CANDIDATES for Ordination, 309, 311, 313, 314
 - for the Ministry. See *Candidates.*
 - on the President's List of Reserve, 280
 - Chapel Affairs, 474-484
 - Chapel-building cases of great emergency, 478
 - cases, Irregular, 125, 601
 - Character of Ministers, Inquiries into, 454-457
 - Charges against Preachers to be first heard by, 633
 - Children's Allowances and Grants from Connexional Fund, 151
 - CIRCUIT—
 - Boundaries, 131, 175
 - Deficiencies, 152, 686
 - Pledges, 155, 156

District Synod, Annual — *continued.*

CIRCUIT:

- Records, 497
- Representatives to, 140, 171
- Schedules, 493, 494
- Stewards and, 65, 147, 171, 172, 187, 668, 692
- Travelling, Grants for, 152, 448, 469, 593
- Circuits pledged to provide additional houses, 468
- Circulars to Lay Members, 447
 - to Ministers, 447, 498
- CONNEXIONAL—
 - Collections and Subscriptions, 494
 - Departments, Suggestions relating to, 495
 - Documents, 497
 - Fund, 469
 - Constitution of, 449, 454
 - Custody of Minute Books of, 496
 - Day Schools, Closing or Transfer of, 127, 128, 165, 234-237
 - Departmental Ministers, 392
 - Disciplinary Questions, 454
 - Division of Circuits, 174-177
 - Educational Allowances for Children not at the Schools, 492-494
 - Financial State of Circuits to be inquired into, 466
 - Foreign Missions, 471
 - Forfeiture of right of appeal, 629
 - General Assessment, 505-510
 - GRANTS for Afflictions and Funeral Expenses, 152, 153, 376, 437, 438

District Synod, Annual—continued.**GRANTS:**

- for Circuit Travelling, 152, 448, 469, 593
- for Lay Agents, 467
- for Removals, 153, 470, 471
- from Chapel Committee, 476
- HOME Mission Fund legislation rescinded, 466, 467
- Missionary Ministers, 383-392, 468
- Interchanges, Expenses of, 134
- Junior Society Classes, Numbers in, 60
- Juvenile Missionary Associations, Returns from, 162, 163, 471
- Kingswood School, 488, 489, 490
- Lay Agents, 467
- Lay General Treasurers of Connexional Funds to be Members of, 451
- Lay Treasurers and Hon. Lay Secretary of Fund for Relief and Extension of Methodism in Scotland to be members of Scotland Synod, 451
- Lay Treasurers of Manchester and Salford Mission to be members of Manchester Synod, 451
- Laymen's Day, 447, 465
- Leaders' Meetings and Division of Circuits, 77
- List of Supernumeraries and Widows, 487
- Local Missions, 468
- Local Preachers' Committee, 453, 473, 474, 512
- London Mission and Extension Fund, 484

District Synod, Annual—continued.

- Lord's Day Observance, 473, 512
- Marriage of Ministers, 315, 316, 457
- Members of Society, Annual return of number of, 330, 497
- Ministers' Allowances in the Connexion at large, 146
- MINISTERS attending Conference, 464, 538-540
- Increase or Decrease of the number of, 383
- resident abroad, 380
- whose names are on the Journal only, 450, 457, 635
- without pastoral charge, 381-383
- Minutes of, 496
- Mission Field, Preachers on Trial returning from, 310
- Missionaries, Trial of, 432
- Missionary Treasurer, 188, 471
- Neutrals in voting, 271, 457
- New Laws to be submitted to, 462, 463, 622, 671
- Obituaries of deceased Ministers, 457, 458, 648
- Open-Air Work, 474
- Order and Form of Business in, 449
- Ordinary Grants from Home Mission Fund, 466, 467
- Organs, 118, 343, 483
- Pastoral Visitation, Inquiries concerning, 356
- President and Secretary of the Conference not to be Representatives of, 542
- PROBATIONERS attending Conference, 313, 538
- Book Lists, 310

District Synod, Annual—continued.**PROBATIONERS:**

- Examination in Wesley's Works, 306, 311
- General fitness, 312, 459
 - no right to vote, 312, 457
- Results of Examinations of, 305-310
- returning from the Mission Field, 309, 310
- to preach, 311, 460
- Provisional Legislation 462, 463
- Relief and Extension Fund for Methodism in Scotland, 485
- Reports of Special Committees referred to consideration of, 463
- Representative to Stationing Committee, 513
- Representatives to Conference, 464, 465, 485-487, 666-668
 - Substitutes for, 464, 486
- Right to make inquiries into character, 455
- Right to propose Amendments to Provisional Legislation, 463
- Rules, Inquiry as to the Observance of, 455
- Seamen's Missionary Report, 392
- Secretary of, 131, 448, 457, 496, 624
- Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes, 482
- Students in the Theological Institution, 285
- Subscriptions and Collections, 494
- Substitute for Chairman, 444
- Suggestions to Conference, 495, 566, 671

District Synod, Annual—continued.

- Sunday and Day Schools, 472
- Sunday School, Closing, 472
- SUPERNUMERARIES, 371-381, 636-638
 - entering into business, 377-379, 638, 753
 - re-appointment to Circuits in special cases, 375, 458
- Temperance Committee, 452, 453, 473, 512
- Time of commencing Financial Business, 465
- Trinity Hall School, 490-492
- Trust Property, Erection, Purchase, or Enlargement of, 478-482
- Wesley Guild, 471
- Women Representatives to Conference, 487
- Worn-out Ministers' Fund, 487
- District Synod, Financial, 497-514**
 - Auxiliary Missionary Committees, 503
 - Business of, 449
 - Chairman to determine place and time of meeting of, 498
 - Chapel Affairs, 503
 - Children's Fund Treasurer, 507, 508
 - Circuit Stewards to attend, 497
 - Class Leaders' Committee, 453
 - Circular to Lay Members, 447
 - Constitution of, 497, 498
 - Deputations, Home and Foreign Missionary, 502

District Synod, Financial—continued.

District Committees. See *Committee.*

Examination of Pupil Teachers in Religious Knowledge, 511

Foreign Missions Committee, 452, 502

General Assessment, 505, 508-510

Home Mission and Chapel Committees, 451-452, 498-501

Local Preachers' Committee, 97-99, 453, 512

Relation to Local Preachers' Meetings, 98, 99

Lord's Day Observance, 512

Marriages in the Isle of Man, 513, 514

Open Air Work, 501

Probationers' Examinations, 513

Representative to the Stationing Committee, 513

Sanitary condition of Ministers' Houses, 159, 501

Secretary of, 448, 498

Special Mission Committees, 589

Substitutes for Circuit Stewards, 498

Sunday School Committee, 452, 510

Sustentation Fund, 513

Temperance Committee, 452, 512

Wesley Guild Secretary, 511

Worn-out Ministers' Fund Treasurer, 504, 505

District Synod, Minor, 514-516

Appeals to, 36, 193, 323-324, 446

Constitution of, 514

Frivolous charges, 516

District Synod, Minor—continued.

Minutes of, 457

Place of holding, 515

District Synod, Mixed, 101-104, 518

Appointment of Ministers in exceptional case, 102, 682

Chapel Model Deed, 711-713

Constitution and powers of, 101, 518, 682

Lord Lyndhurst on powers of, 103

District Synod, Special, 516-518

Authority of, 456

to call, 516

to remove Officers and Members, 518

Constitution of, 325, 446, 517, 691, 692

President to attend, 516

District Synods, 441-449

Change of Title, 441

Courts of Inquiry and Appeal, 443

Extension of the Authority of, 443

Lord Lyndhurst on, 103, 442

Primary Purpose of, 441

Right to suspend Ministers, 102

to urge Circuits to become independent of Home Mission Fund, 147

District Synods, Foreign, 518-522

Accounts, 425, 426, 521 and Courts of Superior Jurisdiction, 522-525

Annual Report, 522

Chairmen and General Superintendents, 408, 420-425

Change in Date of, 519

District Synods, Foreign—continued.

- Disciplinary Questions, 454, 455, 519
- District Funds, 520
- Furlough, 430, 431, 521
- Lay Missionaries and, 428
- Local Preachers from abroad, 522
- Ministerial Missionaries and, 428, 429
- Minutes of, 522
- New legislation affecting, 521
- Preachers on Trial returning from the Mission Field, 419
- Probationers' Examinations, 520
- Property, 521
- Suggestions to Conference, 521
- Trial of Missionaries, 519
- Voting in, 418

Districts, Chairmen of, 444-448

- Administration of Discipline in Circuits, 134 and Circuits, 134-135
- Appointment of, 444-445
- Assistants to, 446
- Attendance of Ministers at Conference, 538
- CANDIDATES, Character of, 266
- Examination of, 270
- not approved by Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 168, 169
- Trial Sermons of, 266, 271, 272
- Change of Laymen's Day at Annual District Synod, 447-448
- Character of Ministers, 454-457, 633-636
- Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 134, 135, 173, 190, 692
- Stewards, 186, 187

Districts, Chairmen of—continued.

- Circulars to Lay Members of District Synods, 447
- Circulars to Ministers, 447
- CONNEXIONAL Documents, 497
- Funds, Collections and Subscriptions for, 182, 331, 494, 623
- Disciplinary Questions at District Synods, 454
- Dispensations to Probationers to administer Sacraments, 48, 49, 550
- District Local Preachers' Committee, 453
- FINANCIAL District Synods, Time of Holding, 497
- Secretaries, 448, 498
- State of Circuits, 466
- Frivolous charges and demands for Minor District Synods, 516
- Home Mission Fund, 466
- Instructions to Foreign, 389
- Liverpool Minutes* (Abbreviated Form) to be read in September Ministers' Meetings, 358
- Marriage of Ministers, 315
- Members of the Representative Session of the Conference, 559, 666, 667
- Ministers resident abroad, 380, 381
- who act under the direction of, 132
- Minor District Synods, 324, 514-516
- Minutes of District Synods, 191, 442, 454, 496, 497
- Mixed District Synods, 101-104, 518, 682, 683, 712
- Pastoral Visitation, Inquiry concerning, 356

Districts, Chairmen of—*continued.*

- Preachers on Trial returning from the Mission Field, 309, 310
 - Presidents of the Conference to be, 444
 - Probationers Book Lists, 310
 - Examinations, Postponement of, 308, 309
 - Procedure in the case of an accused Minister, 446
 - Pupil Teachers' Examinations, 511
 - Representatives to District Synods, 171, 172
 - Resolutions on Pastoral Work to be presented to Preachers on Trial, 367
 - Responsibility of, 445
 - Schedules from Departments, 137
 - Solitary Stations, 133, 135
 - Special Circuit Meeting, 189-193
 - District Synods, 516-518, 691
 - Substitute for, 444
 - for Representatives to Conference, 464, 486
 - Supplies, 157, 158, 370
 - to sign District Minutes, 496
 - Trial of, 445-446
 - Trust Accounts, to inquire concerning the examination of, 119
 - Vacant Chair, Manner of supplying, 444
- Districts, Financial Secretaries** of, 448, 449, 498, 624
- Origin of, 441
- Division of Circuits**, 77, 174-177, 547, 670, 686, 687
- Doctrinal** qualification of Officers of the Society, 62
- Doctrines**, Standard of, 91, 170, 329, 713, 736-747

Documents, Connexional, 497

Dual Platform, Temperance, 212, 240, 242, 246

Edinburgh Mission, 589

Editor, Connexional, 642-644

Education Fund, 182, 494

- Collections and Subscriptions for, 182, 335, 337, 494
- Committee, District. See *Committee.*
- General. See *Committee.*
- Schedules, 179

Educational Allowances for Ministers' Children, 492-494

Allowances for Supernumeraries' Children, 376, 377, 638

Standard in the case of Candidates for the Ministry, 262

Election of Chairmen of Districts, 444, 649

Circuit Representatives to District Synods, 171-173

of Departmental Ministers, 392-396

Lay Representatives by the Conference itself, 556, 595-597

of Lay Representatives to the Conference, 485-487, 553-555, 667, 668

of Members of Courts of Superior Jurisdiction, 524

of Members of the Legal Conference, 560, 625-627

of Ministers to attend Conference in its Representative Session, 464, 465, 552, 553

of Substitutes for Circuit Stewards or Representatives in District Synods, 172, 173

Election—*continued.*

of Substitutes for Connexional Treasurers in Conference, 556

of the President and Secretary of the Conference, 561-563

End of Probation for the Ministry, 303

Enlargement of District Synods, 171-172

of Leaders' Meetings, 43

Enrolment of Trust Deeds, 108

Entertainments and Trust Properties, 56, 57

Erection and Enlargement of Chapels, 114, 163, 478, 710, 714

of Day Schools, 229

European Candidates for the Ministry on Mission Stations, 411

Evangelists, Connexional, 388

Evening Visitation, 708

Examination in Catechism, Public, 209, 709

of Candidates for the Ministry. See *Candidates.*

of Day Schools in Religious Knowledge, 233

of Leaders, 707

of Local Preachers, 90-92, 618

of Preachers on Trial. See *Probationers.*

of Pupil Teachers, 511

of Trust Accounts by Superintendent Ministers, 119, 720

Excluded Ministers, 26, 85, 634 and Annuitant Society, 753

Exclusion of Members of Society, 11, 23, 24, 25, 28, 33-40, 322-327, 687

of Officers and Members by District Synods, 38

of Ministers, 634, 663

Execution of Deeds creating Charitable Trusts, 108

Exhorters, 62, 88, 93

Exit from Chapels in case of fire, 121

Expenses of Interchanges between Circuits, 134

of Probationers attending Central Examinations, 307

of the President and Secretary of the Conference, 578

Ex-President of the Conference, The. See *Conference.*

Extension of Methodism Fund, 603

Extinction of the Conference, 665

Failures, Commercial, 37, 40, 96

Family Religion, 11, 32, 55, 349, 694, 696

Fasting, 11, 59, 698

Fellowship, Methodist, 14-16

Festivals of the Church, 346

Finance—

Circuit and Connexional, 141

Recommendations of Commission on Finance, 142, 143

Financial District Synod. See *District Synod.*

Secretaries of Districts, 448, 449, 498, 624

State of Circuits, 466

Fletcher, Life of John, 347

Foreign District Synods, 518-522

Missionaries. See *Ministers.*

Missionary Accounts, 181, 187-188

Missionary Deputations, 502, 503

Missionary General Secretaries, 399-402

Secretaries, Circuit, 180

Secretaries, District, 452

Foreign—continued.

- Missionary Society, 397-410. See *Missionary Society*.
- Missions. See *Circuit Quarterly Meeting*; *Committee*; *Conference*; *District Synods*.
- Stations, 549
- Treasurer, Circuit, 180, 471
- Treasurer, District, 333, 337, 471, 452
- Forfeiture** of Right of Appeal, 629
- Form** of Administering Sacraments, 47-51
- Formal Society** and Circuit Meetings, 193, 688
- Formality** in Public Worship, 344
- Forms** of Conveyance of Trust Property, 111
- French Conference**, Interchange of Ministers with, 435
- Ministers of, in Channel Islands, 376
- President of the, 651
- Friendly Societies** and Trust Properties, 59
- Frivolous Charges** and Chairmen of Districts, 516
- Full Connexion** with the Conference, Ministers from other Churches received into, 150, 268, 317, 318, 639
- Privileges of Ministers received into, 316-317
- Reception into, 314, 316-318, 639-641
- Superintendents, if possible, to be Ministers in, 133
- Funds**, Connexional, 182. See *Committee*.
- Funeral Expenses**, Grant for, 153, 437, 438
- Sermons, 51
- Furloughs** of Foreign Missionaries, 430, 431

Furniture of Ministers' Houses, 156, 375**General Assessment** for Connexional Funds, 505-510, 608-610**General Rules** and Usage of Methodists, 56, 106, 344, 723**Gospel Cars**, 591**Grant** from Circuit Funds to Probationers, 154**Grants—**

- and Loans from Chapel Committee, 115-117, 475-478, 601
- for Afflictions, 152, 376, 437
- for Circuit Travelling, 152, 448, 469, 593
- for Funeral Expenses, 153, 437, 438
- for furnishing Ministers' Houses, 156
- for Furniture to Supernumeraries and Ministers' Widows, 375
- for Removals, 153, 470, 471
- from Connexional Funds, 623
- from Connexional Fund, and Probationers, 154
- from Connexional Fund to Circuits, 151-154, 339, 340, 460
- from Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund, 619
- from Sunday Schools to Trust Funds, 118
- from Trust Funds to Circuit Quarterly Meetings, 145, 717-718
- to Assistants to Senior Ministers, 158-159, 446
- to Ministers under Discipline, 635-636
- to Orphans of a Deceased Minister, 375, 376, 756
- Guild**, The Wesley, 248-258. See *Wesley Guild*.

- Headingley College and Arts Course**, 281
- Helper**, Twelve Rules of a, 365-366
- Home Mission Committee**, 587
 Additional Ministers, 155, 156, 344, 469
 Army and Navy Ministers and, 136, 389
 Connexional Evangelists and, 388
 District Sustentation Fund, 147
 Home Missionary Ministers and, 383-388
 Lay Agents and, 159-162
 Married Ministers without houses, 156
 Ministers in Full Connexion and, 310
 Reports from District Synods concerning Ordinary Grant, 466, 467
 Representative on Stationing Committee, 543
 Sale of Village Chapels, 124
 Seamen's Missionary and, 392
 Stations supported by, 132
 Status of Local Missions, 587
 Students and, 301
 Transfers between Home and Foreign Work, 434, 646
 Transfers from Welsh to English Work, 646
- Home Mission Committee—**
 Circuit. See *Committee*.
 District. See *Committee*.
- Home Mission Fund**, The, 182, 466, 587
 and Children's Allowances, 151
 Circuit Pledges, 155, 156
 Circuits urged to become independent of, 147
- Home Mission Fund—continued.**
 Collections and Subscriptions, 182, 337, 341, 342, 494
 Financial State of Circuits, 466
 Grants for Circuit Deficiencies, 152
 Home Missionary Meeting to be held in every Chapel, &c., 336, 501
 Ordinary Grants to Districts, 466, 467
 Secretaries of, 155, 156, 594, 609
 Treasurers of, 155, 554, 609, 667
- Home Missionary—**
 Deputations, 503
 Juvenile Associations, 162, 188
 Meetings, 336-337, 501
 Ministers, 383-392
 Stations, 132
- Houses—**
 Circuit, 155-157, 159, 468
 Ministers', Loans to, 116
 Sanitary condition of, 159, 182, 339, 501
- House-to-house** visitation, 349
- Hull Mission**, 589
- Hymn-Books**, 46, 232
- Hymns**, 46, 344, 345
 on the Great Festivals of the Church, 346
- Individual Communion Cups**, 51
- Inscriptions** on old Chapels to be removed on sale, 124
- Instructing** the people from house to house, 349
- Insurance** of Trust Property, 120-122, 717
- Intemperance**, 9, 207
- Interchanges** between Circuits, 134

- Invitations to Ministers**, 166-168, 458, 544
- Ireland**, Acts of the Conference Delegate in, 653, 664
Appointment of the Conference Delegate in, 650
Candidates for Foreign Mission Work from, 274
- Irish Conference** and Legal Conference, 625
- Isle of Man**, Returns of Marriages in the, 513
- Journal of Home Missionary Ministers**, 386
of the Conference. See *Conference*.
- June Circuit Quarterly Meeting**, Special Business of the, 181-184
- Junior Society Class Leaders**, 59-62
Address to, 60
Appointment of, 59
Nomination of, 59
when to become Leaders of Society Classes, 61
- Junior Society Classes**, 59-62, 63, 708
Catechisms to be used in, 61
Enrolment of Members in, 60
Full Members in, 60
Members not to be assessed for Connexional Funds, 61
to be prepared for taking the Lord's Supper, 61
to be prepared for their public recognition, 61
Objects of, 59
Probation in, 60
Quarterly Visitation of, 60
Returns of Members to Circuit Quarterly Meetings, District Synods, and the Conference, 60
Support of the Ministry, 61
- Junior Society Classes**—*continued*
Tickets, 60
Transfer of Members of, 61
- Jurisdiction of Leaders' Meeting**, 73, 89
- Juvenile Missionary Associations**, 162, 163, 188, 332, 337, 338, 341
- Kalendar**, The Superintendent's, 331-342
- Kingswood School**, 149, 334, 340, 341, 488-490, 535, 675, 686
- Kneeling at Prayer**, 46
- Large Circuits** and Pastoral Visitation, 356
- Large Minutes (Summary)**, 169, 170, 367, 455, 647, 694
- Law of God** the primary standard of Judgement in Discipline cases, 11, 325
- Lay Agents**, 96, 97, 159-162, 171, 388, 467
and Local Preachers' Meeting, 96, 97
in Foreign Field, 415
offering for the Ministry, 97, 170
- Lay General Treasurers** of Connexional Funds and District Synods, 451
- Lay Missionaries**, 416
Substitutes for, in Conference, 556
- Lay Representation** in the Conference, 666-679. See *Conference*.
- Lay Treasurers** of Extension of Methodism Fund in Scotland, and District Synod, 451
of Manchester and Salford Mission and District Synod, 451, 588
- Lay Workers' College**, 100, 590

Leaders, Class. See *Class Leaders*

Leaders' Meeting, The, 70-82
 Adult Bible Classes and, 78
 and Local Preachers, 89
 and Members on Trial, 22, 25, 687
 and Supernumeraries, 71
 Appeals from. See *Appeals*.
 Appointment of Class Leaders, 24, 61, 67, 68, 75, 684, 687
 of Stewards, 24, 64, 684, 687
 Army and Navy Work and, 80
 Assistant Class Leaders, 70
 Attendance of Leaders at, 8, 75
 of Circuit Ministers at, 70
 Band Meetings, 53
 Brotherhoods, 78-80
 Chairman of, 72
 Circuit Quarterly Meeting, not a Court of Final Appeal from, 141
 Circuit Stewards to be Members of, 70
 Combined Meetings, 72
 Commercial Failures and, 37
 Committee of, 35, 38
 Constitution of, 70, 71
 of Meeting for the trial of a Trustee, 39
 Cottage Prayer Meetings, 701, 702
 Disciplinary Functions of the enlarged, 71
 Division of Circuits, 77, 176
 Enlargement of, 43-44
 Examination of Leaders, 707
 Exclusion of Members, 11, 24, 33-38, 322-325, 687
 Family Religion, 55
 First Court of Discipline, 73

Leaders' Meeting—continued.

Importance of, 73, 74, 698
 Inquiry as to Removals, 76
 Junior Society Class Leaders, 59, 61, 71
 Jurisdiction of, 73, 89
 Local Sunday School Council and, 222
 Lord's Supper, The, 77
 Memorials to Conference, 76, 77
 Ministers who resign under Charges, 634, 635
 Ministers without pastoral charge and, 71, 382
 Moral character of Leaders, 707
 New Leaders, 75, 698, 702
 Nomination of Leaders and Stewards, 61, 64, 67, 75, 687, 698
 Numbers in Society, 76
 of Richmond College Chapel, 70
 Other formal Society Meetings and, 193, 688
 Pleasant Sunday Afternoons and, 78
 Poor Stewards to be Members of, 70
 Removal of Class Leaders from office, 68, 684, 687
 of Stewards from office, 64, 684, 687
 Representatives of Society elected to, 43, 44, 71
 Secretary of, 71
 Society Stewards to be Members of, 70
 Special Circuit Meeting and, 189-193
 Sunday School Committee and, 77, 199
 Officers and Teachers and, 77, 203
 Suspended or expelled Ministers, 634, 635

Leaders' Meeting—*continued.*
 the proper Meeting for the
 Society, 193, 688
 to be regularly held, 73, 698
 Young Leaders, 75

League—
 of Adult Abstainers, 244
 of Young Abstainers, 244
 of Young Worshippers, 206

Leaving Conference before Busi-
 ness is finished, 655

Lectionary, 45

Leeds Mission, 589

Leeds Regulations, 686-693

Legal Conference, The. See
Conference.

proceedings in the case of
 Trust Property, 113

Leys School, The, 669

Leysian Mission, 589

Liquor Traffic and Office-bearers,
 62, 613

List of Reserve, The President's.
 See *Conference.*

Liturgy, 45, 541, 682

Liverpool Minutes, Abbreviated
 Form, 357-365

Liverpool Mission, 589

Loans from the Chapel Com-
 mittee, 115

to Ministers' Houses, 116

Local Missions, Connexional
 Status of, 587

Local Preachers, 82-87, 87-95,
 96-97

and Circuit Quarterly Meet-
 ing, 83, 86, 92, 138

and Special Circuit Meet-
 ings, 189-193

Appointments, 89-90

Approval of, 82, 687

Circuit Plan, 84

Commercial failure of, 38,
 96

Credentials to be presented
 in case of removal to
 another Circuit, 90

Local Preachers—*continued.*

Examination of, 90-92

from Abroad, 83, 522

from other Methodist
 Churches, 83

Lord's Supper, The, 83,
 89

Lovefeasts, 85

Ministers who resign under
 Charges, 85, 634-635

Nomination of, 91

Notes to preach, 93

Not to administer the
 Sacraments, 85

Pastoral Address to be
 given to, 63, 95, 707

Position on the Plan, 90

Preaching during Proba-
 tion, 92

Preaching in other Circuits,
 84, 687

Preliminary examination of,
 92

Probation of, 90, 92

Reading, 96

Recognition Service, 92

Removal to other Circuits,
 90

Returns to Conference, 63

Right of Appeal, 88, 89

Supernumeraries who have
 entered into business to
 be considered as, 379

Supply of, 93, 707

Suspended or expelled Min-
 isters, 85, 634-635

Theological Class, 86, 94,
 707

to conduct Class Meeting
 in small Village Societies,
 68

to meet in Class, 83

Trial Sermon, 92

Wesley's *Sermons* and
Notes on the New Testa-
ment to be read by, 91

Women Preachers, 86

Local Preachers' Committee, Connexional, 99, 617-618
 District, 97-99, 453, 473-474, 512
Local Preachers' Fund, Necessitous, 100, 619, 620
Local Preachers' Meeting, The, 87-95. See *Local Preachers.*
 and Leaders' Meeting, 89
 Appeal to Special Local Preachers' Meeting from, 88-89
 Business of, 88-95
 Chairman of, 87
 Circuit Ministers to attend, 87
 Constitution of, 87
 Election of Secretary, 95, 98
 Examination at close of probation, 90-92
 Exhorters to be approved by, 93
 General Questions at each Meeting, 94, 95
 Lay Agents in Circuits, 96, 97
 Local Preachers on Trial to attend, 87
 Minutes of Discipline Cases, 87
 New Places, 94
 Nomination of Local Preachers, 91
 Open-air Preaching, 95
 Power to extend probation possessed by, 90
 Powers of, 88
 Preaching out of doors, 94
 Removals from and to other Circuits, 90
 Returns for District Local Preachers' Committee, 95, 98
 Right to make inquiries, 88

Local Preachers' Meeting—continued.

Special Business at March Meeting, 95
 at September Meeting, 95
 at December Meeting, 95
 State of Work of God, 94
 Supernumerary Ministers to attend, 87
 Taking places off the Plan, 97
 to be held once a quarter, 87
 Union for Biblical and Homiletic Study, 95
Local Preachers' Meeting, The Special, 88-89
London, Methodist Settlement in, 613
London Mission and Extension Fund, 182, 484, 603
 Branches of Work, 603
 Collections and Subscriptions for, 182, 332, 335, 484
 Trust Subscriptions, 484
London Mission Band Union, 248
Lord's Day, Closing of Public-houses on, 240
 Observance of the, 9, 54, 512, 612, 620, 697
Lord's Supper, The, 47, 49-51
 Active Guild Members to attend, 252
 Administration of, 47-51, 83, 85, 329, 681
 and Leaders' Meetings, 77
 and Quarterly Meetings, 51
 Dispensation to Probationers to administer, 48, 49, 550
 Individual Communion Cups, 51
 Junior Society Members to be prepared for taking, 61
 Local Preachers to attend, 83
 Members of Society to attend, 11, 22, 49, 696

Lord's Supper—continued.

Ministers in Full Connexion to administer, 49, 85, 681
 Notes of Admission to, 49
 Practical Suggestions, 50
 Probationers to have opportunity of attending, 304
 Stationing Committee and Probationers, 49, 550
 Strangers present at, 50
 Tickets to be shown at, 50
 to be administered at Ordination Service, 647
 to be administered at Services for the Recognition of new Members, 26, 27
 to be administered frequently, 50, 329
 to be administered in connexion with the Covenant Service, 53
 Week-day administration of, 50, 329
 Wine at, 51,

Lovefeasts, Admission to, 52

Collections at, 52
 Lending Tickets, 52
 Length of time to continue, 52
 Local Preachers and, 52, 693
 Notes of Admission to, 52
 on Foreign Mission Stations, 432
 Tickets to be shown at, 52
 Time of holding, 52
 to be held with the consent of the Superintendent Minister, 52

Lyndhurst, Lord, 103, 442**Manchester and Salford Mission, 588**

Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 588
 Committee, 588
 Lay Treasurers and District Synod, 588

March Quarterly Meeting, Special Business of the, 166-181**Marks in Examinations, System of, 265****Marriage Act, 1898, 369****Marriage of Members of Society, 54, 316**

of Ministers, 315, 754-756

of Supernumeraries, 379

Marriages in the Isle of Man, 513

Registration of, 369

Married Candidates for the Ministry. See Candidates.**Matrimony, Solemnization of, 368****Means of Grace, 22, 27****Meetings, Ministers' Monthly, 322**

Ministers' Weekly, 35, 37, 137, 321, 322, 358

Members of Junior Society Classes. See Junior Society Classes.**Members of Society, 3-62**

Admission into the Society, 5, 8, 22, 24-27, 40, 687

Annual Returns of, 33, 330
 Appeals by. See *Appeals*.

ATTENDANCE at Class, 23, 24, 27, 28, 34

at Means of Grace, 27

at Public Worship, 11, 22, 27, 697

at the Lord's Supper, 27, 543

Baptism of unbaptized, 11, 22, 49, 696

Breach of the Laws of God, 11, 34, 325

Bureau, Membership, 29

Commercial Failure of, 37, 38

Committees of Sunday Schools and, 199

Members of Society—continued.

Condition of Admission into the Society, 5, 8
 Condition of continued Membership in the Society, 9-11
 Conformity to the World, 55
 Contributions in the Classes, 8, 23, 41, 61, 69, 466
 Creating Strife in a Circuit, 38, 326
 Discipline of the Church, 26
 Disorderly conduct in Class, 37
 Erasing Names from Class Books, 24, 35
 Examination of Members at Quarterly Visitation, 32, 699
 Excluded Ministers, 26, 634
 Exclusion of, 11, 24, 33-38, 322-325, 687
 Family Religion, 11, 32, 55, 349, 694, 696
 Final Appeal in cases of Discipline, 40, 630, 669
 Forfeiture of Right of Appeal, 629
 in the Army and Royal Navy, 390
 in Villages, 53, 700
 Irregular attendance at Class, 28
 Lord's Day, Observance of the, 9, 54, 512, 612, 620, 697
 Marriage of, 54, 316
 meeting in Junior Society Classes, 60-61
 Memorials from, 76
 Ministers who resign under Charges, 634, 635
 neglecting to meet in Class, 28, 34, 698, 699
 New Trustees to be, 731

Members of Society—continued.

Notes of Removal, 28, 696
 on Trial, 25
 of other Methodist Churches, 28, 29
 on Foreign Mission Stations, 432
 on Trial, 22, 25, 32, 60, 699
 Origin of the Society, 3, 7
 Over-speculation in Business, 40
 Private Prayer, 11, 697
 Probation, 22, 25, 60
 Quarterly Returns of, 33, 76, 330
 Re-admission of, 40
 Reasons for withholding Tickets of Membership, 34, 37
 Recognition of new, 26, 706
 Recommendation by Leaders, 25
 Removal Notes, 28
 Removing to London, 29
 Representation in Leaders' Meeting, 43
 Representatives of Sunday Schools in Circuit Quarterly Meetings to be, 216
 Representatives to Conference to be Members of five years' continuous standing, 486, 667
 Representatives to District Synods, 172
 Roll of Membership, 31, 709
 Rules of the Connexion binding on, 21, 34
 Rules of the Society, 7-11, 16-17, 25
 Special Circuit Meeting and, 189-193
 Tickets not to be sent to Leaders, 32
 Tickets of Membership, 25, 28, 32-37, 41, 42, 44, 50, 52, 53, 60

Members of Society—continued.

Tickets to be shown at
Lovefeasts, 52

Tickets to be shown at
Society Meetings, 42,
44

Tickets to be shown at the
Covenant Service, 53

Tickets to be shown at the
Lord's Supper, 50

to attend Classes in Circuits
in which they reside, 28
to search the Scriptures,
11

Transfer of Members of
other Methodist Churches,
28-29

Trial of, 33-40

of, in places where a
Leaders' Meeting is not
statedly held, 36

of Trustees, 39-40

who have ceased to meet
in Class, 28, 32-36, 699

Membership Bureau, 29

Membership, Church, Statement
of the Conference con-
cerning, 12-17. See
Church Membership.

Memorandum of Agreement
between the Conference
and Candidates from
other Conferences and
Churches, 268-270

Memorials from Circuit Quar-
terly Meetings. See *Cir-*
cuit Quarterly Meeting ;
Conference.

Memorials from Leaders' Meet-
ings, 76

from Welsh Assembly, 529

Merthyr Central Mission, 589**Methodist Assembly, 616****Methodist Brotherhood, 30**

Methodist Church, Wesleyan, 2
Councils in large towns,
165

Methodist—continued.

Settlement in London, 613,
614

Committee, 614

Minister in charge, 613

Scheme of Management,
613-614

Society, The origin of,
3-5

Rules of, 7-11

Statistics, 616

Methodist Doctrinal Standards,
91, 170, 329, 713, 736-
747

Methodist Fellowship, 14-16

Methodist Settlement in London,
613, 614

Middle Class Schools, 599

Ministers, 259-438

Additional, 155-157, 469,
591, 670

Allowances, 146, 156, 185

Ministers, Army and Navy, 136,
137, 389, 391

Capitation Payments, 122,
136, 146, 391

Circuit Plans, Designa-
tion on, 137

Circuit Quarterly Meeting,
136, 146, 391

Circuit Work, 136

Foreign Mission Districts,
389

Invitation of, 136

Leaders' Meeting, 80

Maintenance of, 136

Relation to Circuit Minis-
ters, 136, 137

Relation to Sub-Committee,
136, 137

Relation to Superintendents
of Circuits, 136, 137

Reports to District Sy-
nods, 390

Soldiers' and Sailors'
Homes, 390

Sub-Committee, 340, 587

Ministers' Children's Allowances,
147-151Amount of Maintenance
and Educational, 148, 317and Grants from Con-
nexional Funds, 151Assessment, District, 508,
609-610Assessment, General, 505,
607-609Assessment of Ministers in
Departments for the Chil-
dren's Fund, 396, 609Assessment of Ministers
without pastoral charge
for the Children's Fund,
382Circuit obligation to pay,
151First and last claims, 149,
317for Children born during
the year, 150for Children dying during
the year, 150for Children of Supernu-
meraries and Deceased
Ministers, 376-377for Infants dying before
claim has become due,
150Formation of the Chil-
dren's Fund, 148-149Institutions of Methodism
and the Children's Fund,
610Ministers without pastoral
charge and the Children's
Fund, 382Native, in our Foreign Mis-
sions, 414The Children's Fund, 148,
150, 182, 341, 494, 505-
510, 607-610Treasurers of the Children's
Fund, 148, 150, 507, 508,
554, 667**Ministers, Circuit,** 318-371. See
*Circuit Quarterly Meet-
ing; Conference; Dis-
trict Synods; Leaders'
Meeting; Members of
Society; Superintendent
Ministers.*Abbreviated *Liverpool Min-
utes*, 339, 357-365Administration of Sacra-
ments. See *Baptism;
The Lord's Supper.*Appointment of. See *Ap-
pointment.*Burial of the Dead, 47,
369Children's Meetings, 355,
356, 701, 708

Circuit Plan, The, 84

Class Books, 706

Connexional Principle, The,
181, 298, 318Extension of Methodism,
703Minutes of Conference to
be purchased by, 304

Monthly Meetings of, 322

Opening new places, 703

Oversight of Young, 700

Party Politics, 367, 704

Pastoral Office, The, 296,
318

Responsibility, 72, 703

Visitation, 349-356, 699-
703Personal and Family Re-
ligion, 694

Preaching out of doors, 357

Preaching, The most useful
way of, 345, 695Public Worship, 44, 46,
343-345, 669, 682, 710,
711

Pulpit, The, 695

Relation to Colleagues, 320

Resolutions on Pastoral
Work, 304, 366, 694-709

Ministers, Circuit—continued.

- Revival, Proper means to promote a, 347
- Solemnization of Matrimony, 368
- Special Services conducted by Strangers, 346
- Society Meetings, 20, 42, 696
- Spiritual Concerns to be managed by, 24
- Study, The, 695
- Sunday Evening Prayer Meetings, 705
- Superintendents, 319
- to intimate to the President, in the first instance, intention to resign ministry, 458
- to maintain Class Meetings, 24, 705
- to maintain Discipline, 342, 704
- to restrict their visits to other Circuits, 706
- Trades, not to follow, 367
- Twelve Rules of a Helper*, 365-366
- Union among, 321
- Visitation of Classes. See *Class Meetings*.
- of Villages, 702
- Weekly Meetings of, 35, 37, 137, 321, 322, 358
- Weekly Prayer Meetings, 697

Ministers, Deceased, 437-438

- Allowances for Affliction, 152, 376, 377
- for Children, 152, 437
- Funeral Expenses of, 153, 437, 438
- Obituaries of, 438, 457, 458, 527, 648
- Orphans of, 375, 376, 756
- Removal of Luggage, 438

Ministers, Deceased—continued.

- Widows of, 149, 375, 438, 487, 753, 754, 755, 758.
- See *Annuitant Society*.

Ministers, Departmental, 392-396

- Appointment of, 44, 101, 132, 166, 318, 319, 327, 392, 663, 682, 710, 711
- Assessment (General) for Connexional Funds, 396, 505-510
- Cases of emergency, 395, 605, 674
- Discussion on Nominations allowed, 395
- District Synods, Relation to, 396
- Election of, 392-395
- Ministers acting under direction of a Department, 396
- New Appointments, 392, 605
- New Departments, 606
- Nomination of, 392-395, 604, 605, 674
- Re-appointment of, 392
- Renewal of Re-appointments, 395
- Scrutineers, Committee of, 395
- Term of Appointment of, 395

Ministers, Expulsion or Suspension of. See Conference.**Ministers, Foreign Missionary, 397-437**

- Admission of Europeans into the Ministry on Mission Stations, 411
- and Affiliated Conferences, 641, 642
- Allowances, 419
- Appointment, 412-413
- Attendance at General Committee, 404, 431
- Candidates, 410. See *Candidates; Students*.

Ministers, Foreign Missionary—
continued.

- Candidates and Provincial Synods, 412
- Chairman of Foreign Districts visiting England, 431
- Chairmen and General Superintendents, 420-425
- Cost of Training Missionaries, 292, 412
- Courts of Superior Jurisdiction in the Mission Field, 522-525
- District Synods and Local Committees, 428-429
- Foreign District Synods, 518-522
- Furloughs, 430-432
- Interchange of Ministers between Channel Islands and French Conference, 435-437
- Lay Agents, 415
- Lay Missionaries, 416-417
- Length of Service, 430
- Medical Examination, 413
- Medical Missionaries, 417, 430
- Methodist Discipline to be enforced on Mission Stations, 432
- Ministers accepted for Service in a specified country, 413
- Missionary Probation, 417
- Native Ministers and the Yearly Conference, 413
- not to follow trades, 367, 433
- Ordination of, 413
- Probationers for Ministry, 417-418
- Probationers returning from Mission Field, 419
- Property, 433
- Provincial Synods, 524, 640

Ministers, Foreign Missionary—
continued.

- Reception into Full Connexion, 639-641
 - Relation to Yearly Conference, 411, 639-641
 - Retirement from the Field, 429
 - Returning Home without leave, 434
 - Rules and Regulations of Missionary Society, 397
 - Special Appointment to West Indies, 419-420
 - Special Discipline Committee, 432-433
 - Stations, 419
 - Status of Ministers in the West Indies and other specified countries, 414, 415
 - Study of Language, 418
 - Superintendents, 425-428
 - Superintendent's Authority, 432
 - Transfers between Home and Foreign Work, 434-435. See *Committee.*
 - Trial of, 432-433
- Ministers, Home Missionary,**
383-392
- Appointment of, 383
 - Army and Navy Ministers, 389-391. See *Ministers.*
 - Compendium of Regulations, 383
 - Connexional Evangelists, 388-389
 - District Synod, Inquiry at, 387
 - Duties of, 384-386
 - Journal and Reports, 386-387
 - Quarterly Statement of number of Members, 387
 - Regulations for the Employment of, 383

Ministers, Home Missionary—
continued.

Relation to Superintendents of Circuits, 387

Seamen's Missionary, 392

Ministers received from other Conferences and Churches, 150, 268, 317, 318, 639

Ministers, Superintendent, 319, 322-342

Admission of Members, 5,

8, 22, 24-27, 40, 687

Adult Bible Classes, 78

Agitators, 37, 326

Amusements and Trust Properties, 56

APPOINTMENT—

by Conference, 133, 547

of Class Leaders, 67, 687

of Junior Society Class Leaders, 59

of Preachers to Chapels, 327, 710

of Stewards, 64

Appointment of, 132, 133

Approved Societies under National Insurance Act, and Trust Properties, 59

Army and Navy Ministers, Relation to, 136, 137

Audit of Trust Accounts, See *Audit*.

Band Meetings, 53

Bands of Hope, 210-216

Names of Secretaries of, 186

Baptism, 47, 48, 85, 681

Book Accounts, 330, 338, 644 of Offices, 47

Order, 333

CANDIDATES for the Ministry, 97, 168-171, 261-280, 692

Missionary, 274, 277-278, 410

Residential Qualification of, 170

Ministers, Superintendent—
continued.

Catechisms, Examination in, 209, 709

Chairman of District, Relation to, 134, 135, 692

Chairman of Meetings. See *Chairman*.

Chapels, Alteration, enlargement, erection, and purchase of, 163

Circuit Book, 31, 100

CIRCUIT—

Meeting, Special, 189-193

Plan, 41, 84, 137, 178, 304, 387

Pledges, 155, 156

Quarterly Meeting, 138-189. See *Circuit Quarterly Meeting*.

Representatives to District Synods, 171, 172

Stewards, 64, 65, 186, 187

Temperance Secretaries, 180, 246

CLASS LEADERS—

Appointment of, 24, 67, 68, 75, 684, 687

Examination of, 707

in Mission Districts, 63

Nomination of, 61, 67, 75, 687, 698

Colleagues, Relation to, 320

Commercial Failures, 37, 40, 96

COMMUNICATIONS—

with Chapel Committee, 125

with Departments, 137

CONNEXIONAL—

Evangelists, 301

Funds, Collections and Subscriptions for, 331, 623

Conference Plan, 540

Ministers, Superintendent—continued.**CONTRIBUTIONS—**

in Classes, 8, 23, 26, 41, 61, 466
 from Sunday Schools to Trust Funds, 118
 from Trust Funds to Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 145, 717, 718
 Covenant Service, 53
 Custody of Trust Deeds, 109
 Day School Returns, 178, 179

DAY SCHOOLS—

Discontinuance of, 165
 Examination of Pupil Teachers, 511
 Preventing Establishment of, 235
 Teachers, 233, 234
 Transfer of, 127

Definition of, 319

Discipline, Administration, 11, 20-21, 23, 26, 27, 33-41, 54-59, 68, 71, 169-170, 342, 347, 366, 454-457, 514-518, 519, 522-525, 629-631, 634-636, 647, 682-684, 704

Dissolution of Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 140

District Synods, 321-386

Enrolment of Deeds creating Charitable Trusts, 108

Exclusion of Members, 11, 23, 24, 25, 28, 33-40, 322-327, 687

Entertainments and Trust Properties, 56, 57

Exhorters, 93

Friendly Societies and Trust Properties, 59

Funeral Sermons, 51

Home Missionary Ministers, Relation to, 387

Ministers, Superintendent—continued.

Instructions to Foreign, 389

Irregular Chapel Cases, 125

Junior Society Classes, 59

Return of Members in, 60

Juvenile Missionary Associations, 162, 163, 188, 332, 337, 338, 341

Kalendar, 331-342

Lay Agents in Circuits, 159-162

Leaders' Meetings, 70-82

Legal Settlement of Chapels and Schools, 107

LOCAL PREACHERS, 82-87, 87-95, 96-97

Appointments of, 89-90

Nomination of, 91

Notes to Preach, 93

on Trial, 90-92

Preliminary Examination of, 92

Local Preachers' Meeting, 87-95

Lord's Supper, The, 47, 49, 51, 83, 85, 329, 681

Lovefeasts, 52, 693

Marriage of Ministers, 315

Marriages, Registration of, 369

MEMBERS OF SOCIETY—

Admission of, 5, 8, 22, 24-27, 40, 687

Annual Return of, 330

Exclusion of, 11, 24, 33-38, 322-325, 687

Names to be entered in Circuit Book, 31, 339

on Trial, 22, 25, 32, 60, 699

Quarterly Return of, 76, 330

Re-admission of, 40

Recognition of, 26, 27, 706

Ministers, Superintendent—continued.

Memorials from Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 181-184
 Missionary Accounts, 150
 Municipal and Semi-political Matters, 58
 Names of Circuit Stewards and Representatives, 173, 187
 Officers' Residence and Sphere of Work, 62
 Official Returns, 63
 on Foreign Mission Stations, 414
 Other Formal Society and Circuit Meetings, 193, 688
 Parish Councils and Trust Properties, 58
 Pastoral Address, 42, 63, 340, 631, 707
 Pastoral Visitation, 349-356, 699-703
 Pleasant Sunday Afternoons for the People, 78
 Political Meetings and Trust Properties, 58, 344
 President's Circular, 64, 182, 336
 Primary Standard of Judgment, 325
 Probationers and the Sacraments, 48, 49, 550
 Postponement of Examinations of, 308-309
 Special Grants to, 154
 Public Worship, 44, 133
 Register of Baptisms, 48
 of Marriages, 369, 513
 of Trust Deeds, 110
 Roll of Membership, 31, 709
 Rules binding on Ministers and People, 21
 New, 21
SCHEDULES—
 Children's Fund, 334

Ministers, Superintendent—continued.**SCHEDULES:**

Circuit Chapels, 120, 179, 332, 336
 Circuit Day and Sunday Schools, 178, 179, 332, 336
 Circuit Foreign Missionary, 187, 188
 Circuit Temperance, 180, 333, 336
 Financial Secretary's, 338
 from Departments, 64, 137
 Circuit Wesley Guild, 179, 333, 336
 Sentence of expulsion from Membership, 35, 36, 191, 192, 322-325
SPECIAL—
 Circuit Meeting, 189-193
 District Synod, 516-518, 691, 692
 Services conducted by Strangers, 346, 347
 Society Meetings, 42, 705
 Spirit in which official meetings should be conducted, 72, 703
STEWARDS—
 Chapel, 65
 Circuit, Nomination of, 65, 186
SUNDAY SCHOOLS, 195, 199, 209
 Representatives of, 216
 Returns from, 178
 Supply for, 133
 Temperance Societies, 239
 Names of Circuit Secretaries, 180
 Ticket Plan, 32
 Tickets of Membership. See *Members.*
 to be Ministers in Full Connexion, 133, 319

Ministers, Superintendent—continued.

- Tract Societies, 247
- Trust Accounts, Audit of, 66, 119, 186, 332, 720, 721
- Inspection of, 66, 719
- Trustees' Meetings, Chairman of, 723, 724
- Notice of, 721, 722
- Trustees, New, 731-734
- Visitation of Classes, 31
- Visitation of Villages, 700, 702
- Weekly Contributions in Classes, 69
- without a Colleague, 35, 36, 133-135, 323
- Women Preachers, 86

Ministers, Supernumerary, 371-381

- Allowances from Auxiliary Fund, 375-376, 438
- Allowances to Children, 334, 376, 377, 638
- Auxiliary Fund, Relation to, 375, 438
- Circuit Quarterly Meeting, Members of, 138
- Compulsory, 374, 375, 636
- Conference and, 371-381, 636, 637
- Decease of, 438
- District Synods and, 372, 373, 375, 379, 380, 636
- District Record to be read in Conference, 637
- entering into Business, 377-379, 638, 753
- for one year, 373, 626, 637
- French Ministers in Channel Islands, 376
- Funeral Expenses of, 438
- Grants for affliction, 376
- Grants for furniture, 375
- Grants for removal of luggage, 375

Ministers, Supernumerary—continued.

- Leaders' Meeting, 71
- Legal Conference, Temporary Supernumeraryship in relation to the, 374, 626
- Local Preachers' Meeting, Members of, 87
- Local Preachers, when to be considered, 378
- Marriage of, 379, 754-756
- Minutes of Conference to be given to, 304
- Provision for Ministers retiring for one year, 373, 637
- Re-appointment in special cases, 375, 458
- Removal of Luggage, 375
- Resident abroad, 380, 381
- returning to Full Work, 381, 637
- Special Entry in Minutes only in exceptional cases, 637
- Stationing Committee and, 373, 636
- Term of Active Service, 371
- Travelling Expenses of Members of the Legal Conference, 374
- who have travelled less than eighteen years, 377, 378

Ministers without Pastoral Charge, 381-383

- Arrangement to be reviewed at the Annual District Synod, 459
- Applications for permission to become, 381-382
- Form of Entry in Minutes, 382
- Members of the Legal Conference, 382
- Relation to Circuit and Society Meetings, 71, 138, 382

- Ministers, without Pastoral Charge**—*continued.*
 Relation to Connexional Funds, 382
 to be subject to Discipline, 382
- Ministry and the Sacraments**, 13, 14, 47-51
- Minor District Synod.** See *District Synods.*
- Minutes of Discipline** Cases, 71, 87
- Minutes of District Synods.** See *District Synods.*
- Minutes of the Conference.** See *Conference.*
- Minutes, The Large.** See *Summary of Methodist Law and Discipline.*
- Mission Band Union**, London, 248
- Mission Bands**, 247-248
- Mission Chapels and Rooms**, 163
- Mission Districts**, Circuit Class Leaders in, 63
- Missionary Accounts**, 187, 188
- Missionary Committee.** See *Committee.*
- Missionary Ministers.** See *Ministers* (Foreign Missionary).
- Missionary Prayer Meetings**, 357
- Missionary Society.** See *Ministers; Foreign Missionary*
 Chairman of Officers' Meeting, 401
 Changes in Staff, 398
 Duties of Chairman, 401
 Duties of Secretaries, 399, 400
 Equal Status of Secretaries, 401
 General Committee, 397, 403
 Honorary Lay Treasurers, 402, 554, 667
 Management of, 398
 Missionary Council, 404
- Missionary Society**—*continued.*
 Officers' Meeting, 402
 Procedure of Sectional Committees, 406
Regulations relating to Missionaries, 397
 Secretaries, 399
 Secretary of Medical Board, 398
 Sectional Committees, 405
 SOCIETY in its relation to the Church at HOME, 410
 Advocacy, 410
 Collections and Subscriptions, 182, 332, 333, 337, 340, 494
 General Matters, 410
 Missionary Education, 410
 SOCIETY in its relation to the FIELD, 407-410
 Authority, 407
 Correspondence, 409
 Chairman and General Superintendent, 408
 Synods, 407-408
 Unity, 409-410
 Student Volunteer Movement, 398
- Missionary Students**, 274, 284
- Missions**, Connexional. See *Conference.*
- Mixed District Synod.** See *District Synods.*
- Model Deed**, The Chapel. See *Chapel Model Deed.*
- Monthly Meetings of Ministers** in large towns, 322
- Mortgages of Trust Properties**, 122, 715
- Municipal and semi-Political matters**, 58, 344
- Nature of the Church**, 12
- Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund**, 100, 619, 620

Necessitous Local Preachers' Fund—continued.

Committee, 620
Grant from Thanksgiving Fund, 619
Income of, 620
Trustees of, 619-620

Neutrals in Voting, 271, 457

New Rules for the Societies at large, 21, 622, 671, 688

Nomination—

of Candidates for the Ministry, 168-170, 692

Circuit Stewards, 65, 186

Committee. See *Conference*.

Committees by President of the Conference, 575, 586

Departmental Ministers, 392, 604, 674, 678

Junior Society Class Leaders, 59

Lay Representatives by the Conference, 595-597

to the Conference, 485, 486, 487

Leaders, 61, 67, 75, 61, 687, 698

Local Preachers, 91

MEMBERS of Connexional Committees, 567-569

of Legal Conference, 560, 625, 626

of Minor District Synods, 514

Ministers to attend Representative Session of the Conference, 464, 666

New Trustees, 731-734

Poor Stewards, 64, 687

PRESIDENT and Secretary of the Conference, 561

of French Conference, 651

of South African Conference, 651-652

Representatives to District Synods, 171, 172, 668

Nomination—continued.

Society Stewards, 64, 687

Supplies in cases of vacancies among Lay Members of the Conference, 556

Vice-President of Irish Conference, 650-651

North Wales District Chapel Fund, First and Second, 602

Notes of Admission on Trial and Removal. See *Members*.

Notes to preach, 92-93

Nottingham Mission, 589

Numbers of Members in Society, 76, 330

Obituaries of Deceased Ministers, 457, 458, 648

of Welsh Ministers, 527

Observance of the Lord's Day, 54, 512, 612, 620, 697

Ecumenical Conference, 615

Offertory, Weekly, 143-145

Officers of the Society and Liquor Traffic, 62

Doctrinal Qualification of, 62

Pastoral Address to be given to, 63

Residence and sphere of work, 62-63

Official Appointments of Conference, 607, 649-652

Circuit Books and Records, 497

Official Meetings of the Circuit and the Society, Attendance of Ministers at, 70

Chairman, 72

Combined Meetings, 72

Other Formal Meetings, 193

Spirit in which they should be conducted, 72, 703

Old Chapels in large towns, 124, 164

Open-air Preaching, 94, 95, 474

- Oral Examination** of Candidates for the Ministry. See *Candidates*.
- Order of Business** in District Synods, 454, 497-514
- Order of Business** in Local Preachers' Meetings, 88-95
- Order of Business** in the Conference, 671-679
- Ordination of Ministers**, 313, 647
- Organs**, 118, 343, 483
 Connexional Organ Sub-Committee, 118, 119
- Origin of Classes**, 5-7
- Origin of Districts**, 441
- Origin of the Methodist Society**, 3-5
- Orthodoxy** of Office-bearers, 62
- Pacification**, Plan of, 101, 680-685
- Parish Councils** and Trust Properties, 58
- Party Politics**, 367, 704
- Pastoral Address**, The, 42, 63, 340, 631, 707
- Pastoral Charge**, Ministers without. See *Ministers*.
- Pastoral Office**, The, 296, 318
- Pastoral Visitation**. See *Ministers*.
- Pastoral Work**, Resolutions on, 304, 366, 694-709
- Payment** of Ministers' Allowances. See *Ministers*.
- Places** in which no Leaders' Meeting is statedly held, Charges brought against Members in, 36, 37, 39
- Plain Account** of the People called Methodists, 3
- Plan of Pacification**, 101, 680-685
- Plan**, The Circuit, 41, 84, 137, 178, 387
- Plan—continued.**
 Removing places from, 97
 The Conference, 540
- Pleasant Sunday Afternoons**, 78, 472-473
- Pledges**, Circuit, 155, 156
- Pledges**, Married Candidates', 268
- Political** and Municipal matters, 58, 344
- Political Meetings** and Trust Properties, 58, 344
- Poor Stewards**, 64, 70, 138
- Postponement** of Probationers' Examination, 308-309
- Prayer** and Singing, 46
 Family, 55, 697
 Private, 11, 697
 Public, 346
- Prayer Meetings—**
 Cottage, 360, 701
 Missionary, 357
 Public, 248
 Sunday Evening, 357, 705
 Weekly, 697
- Preaching** out of doors, 94, 95, 357
 The most useful way of, 345
- Preliminary** examination of Candidates for the Ministry, 262-265
 examination of Local Preachers, 92
- President of the Conference**, The. See *Conference*.
- President** of the French Conference, 651
 of the Irish Conference, 650
 of the South African Conference, 651
- President's Circular**, 182, 336
- Prison Chaplains**, 340, 370
- Privileges of Ministers** in Full Connexion, 316-317
- Probation** of Junior Society Members, 60

Probation of Local Preachers,
90-92

of Members of Society,
22, 25, 32, 60, 699

Probationers for the Ministry,
303-318

and Provincial Synods in
Mission Field, 640

and Welsh Assembly, 314

Attendance at Circuit Official Meetings, 70

Baptism, Administration of,
48

Book Lists, 310

Books, Grant to purchase,
154

Circuit Work, Experience
of, 313

Conference, Attendance at
the, 313, 538

Conference, Examination at
the, 313

Conference, Ordination at
the, 314, 647

Conference, Reception into
Full Connexion at the,
314, 316-318, 639-641

Designation Committee and,
312, 580, 644-646

Desisting from Travelling,
303, 635

Dispensations to administer
the Sacraments, 48, 49, 550

District Examination Secretary, 307

District Synods. See *District Synods*.

End of Probation, 303

EXAMINATIONS of, 305-310
All to be examined, 305

Central, 307

Constitution of Methodism, 311

Expenses of, 307

Ministers received from
other Conferences and
Churches, 305

Probationers—continued.

EXAMINATIONS:

Postponement of, 308-309

Preachers put back in
their Probation, 305

Results to be reported to
District Synods, 308

Students who enter Circuit Work later than
Christmas Day, 307

Wesley's Works, 306, 311

Experience of Circuit
Work, 313

General Fitness for the
Work, 312, 459

GRANTS—

from Circuit Funds,
Special, 154

not to be given from
Connexional Fund, 154

in our Foreign Synods,
418

List of Reserve. See *Conference*.

Lord's Supper, The, 49,
304, 550

Marriage of, 315

Minutes of Conference to be
purchased by, 304

No right to vote at District
Synod or Conference,

312, 457

Oversight of, 312

PROBATION, Commencement
of, 299, 303

End of, 303

Term of, 303

Resignation of, 458

Resolutions on Pastoral
Work to be presented to,
304

Returning from the Mission
Field, 309, 310

Sacraments, The, 48, 49,
550

Sermons at District Synods,
311

Probationers—continued.

Special Reports upon, 312
 Stationing Committee and
 the Lord's Supper, 49, 550
 Welsh Assembly, 314
 Wesley's *Works* to be pro-
 cured by, 311
 who have been Supplies,
 167, 305

Provincial Synods in the Mission
 Field, 524-525, 640

Provisional Legislation, 462, 463,
 495

Proxy, Voting for President by,
 563

Public Worship. See *Ministers.*

Pupil Teachers, Examination of,
 511

Quarterly—

Fasts, 95, 698

Meeting. See *Circuit Quar-
 terly Meeting.*

Returns of Junior Society
 Members, 60

Returns of Members of
 Society, 76, 330

Visitation of the Classes,
 26, 31-32, 37, 699

Re-admission of excluded Mem-
 bers, 40

Re-appointment of Ministers to
 Circuits, 168

of Ministers to Depart-
 ments, 395

Recognition of Local Preachers,
 92

of New Members, 26, 706

Record of Legacies and Funds
 left to the Connexion, 583

Records, Official Circuit Books
 and, 497

Reducing number of Circuit
 Ministers and Home Mis-
 sion and Chapel Commit-
 tee, 383

Register of Deeds, 110

Registration of Baptisms, 48

of Chapels for Public Wor-
 ship, 117, 118

of Deeds by Chapel Com-
 mittee, 109

of Marriages, 369

Relief and Extension Fund for
 Methodism in Scotland,
 485

Removal—

Expenses, 153, 470

of invited Ministers, 153

Notes, 28, 696

of Class Leaders from
 office, 68, 684, 687

of deceased Minister's lug-
 gage, 438

of Local Preachers from
 Mission Field to Home
 Circuits, 83, 522

of Local Preachers to other
 Circuits, 90

of Members of other Metho-
 dist Churches, 28, 29

of Stewards from office,
 64

of Supernumeraries' lug-
 gage, 375

Report of Committee (1889) on
 Church Membership, 24
 on Ministers residing abroad,
 381

Reporters in the Conference, 551

Representatives from other Con-
 ferences, 597, 598. See
Conference, REPRESENTA-
 TIVES.

Representatives to Conference.
 See *Conference.*

Representatives—

Lay, to Conference, 485

Ministerial, to Conference
 464

of Circuit Quarterly Meet-
 ings, in District Synods,
 171

Representatives—continued.

- in Circuit Sunday School Council, 188
- of District Synods in the Conference, 464, 485, 486, 487
- of Society in Leaders' Meetings, 43
- of Sunday Schools in Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 216
- Substitutes for, 172, 486
- to Conference, Women, 487
- to District Synods. See *Circuit Quarterly Meeting.*
- to Stationing Committee, 513, 541-543

Residential Qualification of Candidates for Ministry, 170**Resignation of Ministers**, 458**Resolutions** on Pastoral Work, 304, 366, 367, 694-709**Returns—**

- of Chapel Accommodation, 118
- of Members. See *Members.*
- of number of Local Preachers, Classes, and Class Leaders, 63

Revised Book of Offices, 47**Revised Version**, recommended, 45**Revival**, The proper means to promote, 347**Richmond College** and Candidates, 272-274

Resident Tutor of, 70

Roll of Abstainers, 243**Roll of Membership**, 31, 709**Rota Tent Wine**, 51**Rotation** of the Conference, 564**Rules—**

- For management of Sunday Schools, 197-210, 221-224
- New, 21, 622, 671, 689

Rules—continued.

- of Debate, 571-575
- of the Annuitant Society, 748-758
- of the Connexion binding on Ministers and People, 21
- of the Methodist Society, 7-11, 16-17
- of the Missionary Society, 397-410

Sacramental Wine, 51**Sacraments.** The, 13, 14, 47-51. See *Baptism, Lord's Supper, Ministers.***Safe**, Circuit, 110, 131, 497**Safety of Chapels** in case of fire, 121**Sale of Chapels**, 123, 124, 482, 577, 724-727**Sanitary** condition of Ministers' Houses, 159, 182, 339, 501**Schedules.** See *Ministers.***School Model Deeds**, 126, 127**Schools—**

- Connexional, 334, 341, 488-494
- Day. See *Day Schools.*
- Middle Class, 599
- Sunday. See *Sunday Schools.*

Scrutineers of Conference Votes, 395, 595, 596, 652**Seamen's Missionary**, 392, 587**Secretary—**

- Circuit Chapel, 110, 187, 332
- of Circuit Quarterly Meeting, 139
- of Leaders' Meeting, 71
- of Local Preachers' Meeting, 95
- of the Conference. See *Conference.*
- of the District. See *District Synods.*

- Sectional Working of Circuits,** 356
- Senior Ministers and Superintendency,** 320
Assistants to, 158, 370
- September Quarterly Meeting,**
Special Business of the, 185-186
- Settlement in London, Methodist,** 613-614
- Shadwell, Sir Lancelot,** 106
- Sheffield Mission,** 589
- Showing Tickets,** 42, 44, 50, 52, 53
- Singing,** 46, 232, 343, 344
- Sites for new Chapels,** 107, 114
- Sites for Schools,** 107
- Society and Circuit Meetings,** 70
Formal, 193
Meetings, 17-20, 32, 41, 42, 696, 697
Meetings, Special, 42, 705
Stewards, 8, 24, 37-39, 62-65, 70, 101, 102, 104, 138, 518, 682-685, 687, 712, 713
- Society, The,** 3-128. See *Members.*
- Society, Wesleyan Missionary.**
See *Missionary Society.*
- Soldiers' and Sailors' Homes,** 390, 482
- Solitary Stations,** 133, 135
- South African Conference,** 651
- South Wales District Chapel Fund,** 602
- Special Circuit Meeting,** 189-193
District Synod. See *District Synods.*
Examination Committee. See *Candidates.*
Local Preachers' Meetings, 88
Services conducted by Strangers, 346, 347
Society Meetings, 42, 705
- Speculation in Business,** 40
- Standard Doctrinal Works,** 91, 96, 154, 170, 329, 713, 736-747
of Discipline (*Summary or Large Minutes*), 11, 169, 170, 325, 366, 367, 647, 694
of Judgement in Disciplinary cases, Primary, 11, 325
- Standing while singing,** 46
- Stationing Committee,** 541-550
- Stewards, Right of Appeal,** 190
- Stewards,** 64-67. See *Chapel Stewards; Circuit Stewards; Poor Stewards; Society Stewards; Mixed District Synod.*
- Strangers at Lovefeasts,** 52
at Society Meetings, 42
at the Lord's Supper, 50
Special Services conducted by, 346-347
- Students.** See *Theological Institution.*
- Subscriptions and Collections,**
Connexional, 331, 494, 623. See *Superintendent's Kalendar.*
- Subscriptions to Chapel Fund,** 111
- Substitutes for Chairmen of Districts,** 444
for Circuit Representatives to District Synods, 173
for Circuit Stewards in District Synods, 172
for Conference Lay Representatives, 556
for Connexional Treasurers in the Conference, 556
for Representatives from District Synods to Conference, 486
- Suggestions from Districts,** 495, 566, 671
- Summary (*Large Minutes*),** 169, 170, 367, 455, 647, 694

- Sunday Afternoons**, Pleasant,
78, 472-473
- Sunday School Council**, Circuit,
224-226
- Sunday School Council**, District,
226-227
- Sunday School Council**, Local,
44, 221-224
- Sunday School Department**, Con-
nexional, 217-219, 227-
228
Benefits of, 220
Connexional Council, 218
District Synod Committee,
219
and Day Schools, 229
Grants from Education
Fund, 219
Grants to Sunday Schools
for Furniture and Outfit,
219
Includes all Wesleyan Sun-
day Schools in Great
Britain, 220
Objects of, 219, 228
Qualified Visiting Lecturers,
219
Secretary of, 218
Treasurer of, 220
- Sunday Schools**, 193-229
Annual Contribution to De-
partment, 220
Catechisms in, 198, 209
Character of the Teaching,
209
Church Membership of Offi-
cers and Teachers, 202,
203
Classes for Teachers, 209
Closing of, 207
Committee of, 199-201, 222,
223. See *Committee*.
Conduct and Object of, 198
Contributions to Chapel
Trust Funds by, 118, 207
Day of Special Prayer for,
206
- Sunday Schools**—*continued*.
Entertainments on Trust
Premises, 207
General Management, 198,
199
General Principles, 196-197
Importance of, 195
in Welsh Districts, 228
Intemperance, Reference to
be made to, 207
Leaders' Meetings and, 77,
203
League of Young Worship-
pers, 206
Library, 208
Main object of, 198
Management of, 197
Manual of, 197, 198, 208
Ministers to Visit, 178, 195,
701
Officers of, 202, 203
on Trust Property, 193
Organized and Graded, 208
Orthodoxy of Officers and
Teachers, 201, 203
Public Worship, Attendance
of Children at, 204, 205
Religious Knowledge Exa-
mination, 209
Representation in Circuit
Quarterly Meetings, 216
Returns to Conference, 178,
206
Scholars' Removal Notes,
210
Special Classes for Scholars,
206
Substitutes for Teachers, 210
Superintendents and Lead-
ers' and Circuit Quarterly
Meetings, 203
Teachers, 200, 201, 203,
208-210, 212, 215
Total Abstinence, reference
to be made to, 207
Visitation of Absentee
Scholars, 210

Sunday Schools—*continued.*

Work of Superintendents,
204

Superintendency, Senior Ministers and, 320

Superintendent Ministers. See *Ministers.*

Supernumerary Ministers. See *Ministers.*

Supplies, 157, 158, 167, 300, 301, 370, 371, 579
and Connexional Fund Committee, 158
during Vacation, 158, 301
for Chairmen of Districts, 158

from the Theological Institution in cases of emergency, 300

Payment of, 158

Travelling Expenses of, 158

Suspended Ministers, 85, 455, 456, 545, 634

Suspension from Membership, 40

Sustentation Fund, District, 147, 485

Synods, District. See *District Synods.*

System of Marks in Examinations, 265

Table of Lessons for Public Worship, 45

Tabular View of Methodist Statistics, 616

Taunton College, 669

Temperance—

Committee, Circuit, 242

Committee, Connexional, 612, 613

Committee, District, 452, 453, 473, 512

Conjoint Meetings, 612

District Secretary, 336

Dual Platform, 212, 240, 242, 246

Temperance—*continued.*

League of Abstainers, 243—
245

Adult, 244

Young, 244

New Programme, 243

Roll of Abstainers, 243

Secretaries, Circuit, 180, 185, 246, 340

Secretary, Connexional, 185, 186, 340, 473, 613

SOCIETIES, 239—245

Management, 242

Membership, 242

Objects, 240—242

Principles, 239

Title, 239

Sunday, 165, 243

UNIONS, 245, 246

Chairman of, 246

Management of, 245

Officers of, 246

Secretaries of, 246

Treasurer of, 246

Term—

of Appointment of Departmental Ministers, 395

of Ministerial Appointment to the same Circuit, 166, 663, 664

of Ministerial Probation, 303

of Probation for Church Membership, 22, 25, 60

Theological Class for Local Preachers, 86, 94, 707

Theological Institution Fund, 182, 494

Collections and Subscriptions for, 332, 342

General Treasurers of, 293, 554, 667

Probationers' Examination Expenses, 307

Theological Institution, The, 280—303

Assistant Tutor, 286

Theological Institution—continued.

- Candidates and, 280
- Committees of, 286-291, 294, 600
- Consultative Sub-Committee on Studies, 294
- Cost of Training Missionaries, 292
- Discipline Committees of, 287-291
- Finance Sub-Committee, 291
- General Secretary of, 288
- Government of the Colleges, 285-287
- Governor, 286
- Headingley College and Arts Course, 281
- House Committee, 286, 287
- Local Executive Committee, 286
- Principal, 286
- Resident Tutor, 286
- Richmond Branch of, 284, 291
- Secretaries of the Branches of, 289
- Special Discipline Committee, 290, 291
- STUDENTS, 280-303
 - Allowances to, 293
 - Candidates from Ireland for Foreign Mission Work, 274
 - Commencement of Probation, 299, 300
 - Conference, Reports to, 285, 633
 - Connexional Principle, Instruction in, 298
 - Contributions by, 292
 - Curriculum, 294-298
 - Designation of Candidates, 278
 - Dietary, 294
 - Discipline Committees, 287-291

Theological Institution—continued.**STUDENTS:**

- District Synods, Relation to, 285
- Fourth year, 299
- Home Mission Committee and, 301
- List of Reserve, 301-303
- Methodist History and Discipline, 296
- Missionary, 274, 284
- Scheme of Tuition, 281
- Social Facts and Problems, 298
- Supplies in cases of emergency, 300
- Term of Residence, 281
- Travelling expenses, 293
- Tutors, Reports from, 297
- University Degree, Reading for, 297
- University Graduates, 283
- Vacation Supplies, 301
- Welsh, 282-283
 - who have completed their term at the Institution, 300-301
- Tutors, 275, 277, 282, 283, 286, 289, 291, 294, 296, 297
- Tickets.** See *Members.*
- Tickets of Admission** to the Conference, 550-551
- Time Limit** of Appeals, 40, 630
- Title of the Connexion,** 2
- Total Abstinence,** 207
- Tract Societies,** 247
- Trades,** Preachers not to follow, 367
- Training Colleges,** Admission to, 239
- Transfers** between Foreign and Home Work, 434
 - from Welsh to English Work, 646

Travelling Expenses, Grants for
Circuit, 448, 469-470,
593

of Supplies, 158

Probationers, 307

Students, 293

Treasurer of—

Auxiliary Fund, Circuit,
185, 504, 505

District, 185, 504, 505

General, 458, 504, 505,
554, 667

Band of Hope, 212, 223

Chapel, 332, 718, 727

Children's Fund, District,
150, 373, 507

Circuit Sunday School
Council, 225

Circuit Missionary Commit-
tee, 180, 332

Circuit Temperance Union,
245

Connexional Local Preach-
ers' Committee, Lay, 100

District Sunday School
Council, 226

Foreign Missions, District,
332, 337

North Wales Districts
Chapel Funds, 484

South Wales District Chapel
Fund, 484

Sunday School, 199, 202

Temperance Society, 246

Treasurers of—

Annuitant Society, 756

Auxiliary Fund, General,
554, 667

Children's Fund, General,
508, 554

Connexional Fund, 592

Connexional Funds, 623

Connexional Funds, Lay,
554, 667

Foreign Missionary Society,
General, 332, 337

London Mission, 554, 667

Treasurers—continued.

Manchester and Salford
Mission, 451, 588

Relief and Extension Fund
for Scotland, 451

Scotland District Home
Mission Committee, 589

Theological Institution
Fund, General, 293, 554,
667

Trial of Members and Ministers.

See *Members ; Ministers.*

Trial Sermons by Candidates,
266, 271, 272

by Local Preachers, 92

by Probationers, 311

by Welsh Ministers. See
Designation Committee.

Trinity Hall School, 490-492

Trust Assurance Company, Wes-
leyan Methodist, 121

Trust Debts and Circuit Divi-
sions, 177

Trust Property in Scotland, 113
in the Isle of Man, 113

Trusts of the Chapel Model Deed,
710-735

Trustees, 100-128. See *Chapel
Model Deed.*

Accommodation in Chapels
for the Poor and their
Children, 205, 716

Accommodation, Returns
of Chapel, 118

Accounts, Audit of, 66, 119,
186, 332, 720, 721
Examination of, 66, 119,
720

Anniversaries to be held,
120

Annual Meeting of, 119, 332,
720

United Meeting of, 119,
187, 335

Annuities, 122

APPOINTMENT—

Act, 109, 110

Trustees—continued.**APPOINTMENT:**

of Ministers, 44, 101, 132,
166, 318, 319, 327, 663,
682, 710, 711

of New Trustees, 108,
109, 112, 731-734

Army Capitation Payments,
122, 146, 391

Board of, for Chapel Pur-
poses, 128

CHAPEL COMMITTEE. See
Committee.

Grants and Loans from,
115

Registration of Deeds by,
109

Chapel Model Deed, 104-
106, 107, 111, 119, 710-
735

Charity Commissioners, Ap-
plications to, 108, 113,
577

CIRCUIT Chapel Secretary,
110, 187

Chapel Register, 110

Chapel Schedule, 120, 179
Quarterly Meeting, 126,
138

Safe, 110

Collections in Chapels, 120,
716

Compendium of Regulations,
107

Constitution of Leaders'
Meeting for the trial of,
39

Contributions from Trust—
to Chapel Fund, 111,
146

to Circuit Funds, 145

Contributions to Trust from
Sunday Schools, 118

Day Schools. See *Day
Schools.*

DEEDS, Annual Inspection
of, 110

Trustees—continued.**DEEDS:**

Custody of, 109-110

Enrolment of, 108

Provisions of, and the
Rules and Usages of
Methodism, 56, 106,
344, 723

Register of, 110

to be preserved in Cir-
cuit Safe, 110

District Synods, 110, 119,
123-125, 478

Mixed, 101-104, 510

Special, 516-518

Doctrinal Standards, Me-
thodist, 91, 170, 329, 713,
736-747

Erections, Enlargements,
and Purchases of Trust
Property, 114, 163, 478,
714

Exclusion of, 39, 112, 126,
728

Forms for Vesting Trust
Property, 111-112

for vesting Trust Pro-
perty in Scotland, 113

General Rules and Usage of
the People called Metho-
dists, 56, 106, 344, 723

Home Mission Committee
and Village Chapels, 124

Insurance of Trust Pro-
perty, 120-122, 717

Irregular Chapel cases, 125,
474, 475, 477, 504, 601

Legal proceedings, 113

Maximum number under
Chapel Model Deed, 733

Meetings, Annual, 119, 720
Ordinary, 119, 722

Special, 119, 721

United, 119, 187, 335

Minimum number under
Chapel Model Deed, 119,
120, 731

Trustees—continued.

- Ministers' Houses, 111, 156
- Mission Chapels, 111, 124, 163
- Mortgages, 122, 715
- New Trustees to be Members of Society, 731-732
- Nomination of New Trustees, 112, 731-734
- Old Chapels in large towns, 124, 164
- Organs, 118, 343, 483
- Plan of Pacification, The, 101, 518, 680-685
- Registration of Chapels as Places of Public Worship, 117, 118
- Renewal of Trusts, 112, 119, 731-732
- Retirement of, 112, 728
- Safety of Chapels in case of fire, 121
- SALES of Trust Property, 123-124, 577, 724-728 of Village Chapels, 124
- Seat Rents, 146, 717
- Sites for New Chapels, 114-115
- Special Circuit Meeting, 189-193
- Subscriptions to the Chapel Fund, 111
- Superintendent's power to appoint to Chapels, 327, 710
- Trial of, 39, 190
- Trust debts when a Circuit is divided, 177
- Use of Trust Properties for purposes not contemplated by Deeds, 56-59, 123
- Village Chapels, 124
- Trustees for Wesleyan Methodist Chapel Purposes (Registered), 128**

Twelve Rules of a Helper, The,
365-366

Twentieth Century Fund, 598

Union among Preachers, 321
Circuit Temperance, 245, 246

United Meeting of Trustees'
Annual, 119, 187, 335

Universal Church, and Particular, 12, 13

University Degrees, 224, 297, 548, 549
Graduates, 283

Vacation Supplies, 301

Version, Use of Revised recommended, 45

Village Chapels, Sale of, 124
Societies and the Covenant Service, 53

Villages, Visitation of, 700, 702

Visitation, Evening, 708
from house to house, 349
of persons who have ceased to meet in Class, 23, 32, 700
of the Classes. See *Class Meetings*.

Pastoral. See *Ministers*.

Visits to other Circuits, Preachers to restrict their, 706

Voluntary Evangelistic Agencies to be sustained, 247

Voting for Candidates for the Ministry, 271
for President by proxy, 563
in Discipline Cases, 457
Probationers, 312

Warren Chancery Suit, 103, 106, 532

Watch-nights, 95, 698

Weekly Contribution in Classes, 8, 23, 26, 41, 61, 69, 466
Contribution in Junior Society Classes, 61

Weekly—continued.

Meetings of Ministers. See
Ministers.

Offertory, 143-145

Welsh Districts, Candidates

from, 171, 266, 274, 282

Connexional Fund, 592

Memorials and Suggestions

from, 528, 529, 567

Stations of Ministers in,

527, 528, 549

Sunday Schools, 228

Welsh Ministers, Obituaries of,

527

Ordination of, 314, 528, 647

Welsh Ministry, Training of

Candidates for, 282

Transfer to English, 646

Welsh Wesleyan Methodist As-

sembly of Wales, 314,

525-529, 567, 647

Wesley, Charles, II

John, 3, 7, 11, 532-535, 659

Wesley Deaconess Institute, 619**Wesley Guild, The, 248-258**

GENERAL CONSTITUTION,
248-250

Alteration of Constitu-
tion, 250

Annual Report, 249

Central Council, 249

Central Festival, 249

Circuit Guild Returns,

179, 257

Connexional Secretary
and Connexional Sun-
day School Council, 258

District and Provincial
Councils, 250

District Secretary, 511

Expenses, 250

Guild Magazine, 250

Guild Manual, 248

LOCAL CONSTITUTION, 251-

256

Age Limit, 253

Aim, 251

Wesley Guild—continued.

LOCAL CONSTITUTION:

Annual Guild Festival,
255

Business Meetings, 254

Definition, 251

Departments and Sec-
tions, 255

Essentials, 251

Executive, 253

Junior Guild, 256-257

Look Out Committee,
254

Membership, 252

Monthly Devotional Meet-
ing, 253

Officers, 253

Pledges, 252

Secretary, and Local Sun-
day School Council, 258

**Wesleyan Methodist Church,
The, 2****Wesleyan Methodist Trust As-
surance Company, 121****Wesleyan Missionary Society.
See *Missionary Society.*****Wesley's—**

Deed of Declaration, 659-
665

Letter to the Conference,
534, 535

Life and Journals, 347

SERMONS—

First Four Volumes, 329,
713

The Case submitted to
Counsel, 736-744

The Opinion of Counsel
requested, 744-745

The Opinion given, 745-
747

The Resolution of the
Conference on above,
91, 329

Total Number of Standard
Sermons is Forty-Four,
91, 329

Wesley's—continued.

*Sermons and Notes on the
New Testament*, 91, 96,
170, 329, 713

Works, 5, 7

Works, Examination in, 311

Works to be Purchased by
Probationers, 311

**Westminster New Hall and Mis-
sion**, 589

Widows of Ministers, 149, 375,
438, 487, 753, 754, 755,
758

Wine, Sacramental, 51

Women Preachers, 86

Women Representatives to the
Conference, 487

Worn-out Ministers' Fund. See
Auxiliary Fund.

Yearly Conference. See *Con-
ference.*

Young Leaders, 75

Young Worshippers, League of,
206

Zetland District, Candidates
from the, 271

64

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